

DH



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

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B'luru's early aam affair

With mangoes seemingly arriving ahead of schedule amid changing weather patterns and rising prices, here's a quick reality check on a much-anticipated season

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengaluru's heat is blazingly here, and so, it seems, are its mangoes. Across the city, from roadside carts in Padmanabhanagar to wholesale yards in Huskur, the fruit has begun to appear in noticeable quantities weeks before its usual peak. The early arrival comes even as temperatures are expected to hover between 35-37°C this week, with no rain in sight. Typically, these are conditions that precede, not accompany, the start of the season. Yet, if the markets are anything to go by, the mango season is already stirring.

Traditionally, mangoes begin to dominate Bengaluru's markets toward the end of April, after early summer showers. This year, however, the fruit has been visible since late February, raising a natural question: Is the rising heat responsible for changing patterns?

M Sankaran, principal scientist at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, explains that the mango calendar still broadly runs from late April to mid-August, with early varieties arriving in April-May and later ones stretching into June-August. But climate change is beginning to blur these bound-



There is more demand for local varieties like Raspuri and Sindhura this season.

aries, altering flowering patterns and shifting harvest timelines. Venkatesan A, president of the Bengaluru Fruits and Mango Wholesale Commission Agents Association, shares a similar view. "Even though mangoes are already available in the market, the season has not peaked," he explains.

The mangoes currently flooding markets, Sankaran notes, are largely "off-season" produce, made possible through canopy management and growth regulators such as paclobutrazol, allowing availability from November to March. While ripening agents like ethephon and calcium carbide are banned, distinguishing between treated and organic fruit remains difficult.

A market warming up
If supply has arrived early, demand is still finding its rhythm. Street vendors

report uneven sales. A cart seller in Padmanabhanagar says he stocked up four days ago but has struggled to move his produce. Just across the road, however, a more established stall tells a different story: around 70 kg sold per day, with Raspuri emerging as the crowd favourite. The pattern rings true across the city. Larger, more familiar vendors and established outlets are seeing stronger traction than newer entrants.

Online, the appetite appears even sharper. Quick commerce platform Instamart notes that Bengaluru alone accounts for nearly a third of all mango orders, with southern staples like Sindhura and Banganapalli driving demand.

Waiting for the peak
At mango mela stalls and wholesale markets, the sense is not of a season in full swing, but one gathering

momentum.

Imtiyaz Ali, who runs a mango stall in RR Nagar, is currently in a holding phase. His stock, sourced from Ramanagara and neighbouring districts, includes Raspuri, Badami, Sindhura, Mallika, and Malgova. Most of it, however, is still ripening. "The mangoes are selling, but we are waiting for them to fully ripen," he says. Stored in cool, shaded conditions, the fruit is expected to be ready within a week. Alongside local varieties, he has also seen demand for out-of-state favourites like Banganapalli, Alphonso, and Dasherri.

Wholesale markets reflect a similar in-between moment. At Huskur Fruit Market, around 150 vehicles, each carrying 2-3 tonnes of raw mangoes, arrived in a single day. The supply, largely from Ramanagara and Channarayana, is moving quickly, with Sindhura, Badami, Raspuri, Imam Pasand, and Mallika among the most sought-after.

HOPCOMS outlets across the city report steady sales of 80-100 kg per day, led by Alphonso, followed by Badami and Raspuri, all grown within Karnataka.

High prices
Mangoes may be arriving early, but they are anything but light on the pocket. Retail prices currently range between Rs 150 and Rs 300 per kilogram, depending on variety and quality. This is noticeably higher than last year, vendors say. Wholesale prices, meanwhile, vary widely, from Rs 30 to Rs 200 per kilogram. Curiously, it looks like the city's mango season is becoming more elastic — starting early, stretching late, all thanks to changing weather patterns as well as human meddling.

EVENTS		
Book discussion Author of 'Meet the Savarnas', Ravikant Kisana, will talk about his book in a conversation with Mythili S Bhat on April 17, 5 pm at Labyrinth Books, Basavanagudi. Entry free	6.30 pm, at Jama the Studio, Jayanagar. For tickets, visit jamathestudio.com	@bangalorefilmforum on Instagram.
Music Keerthan Holla will present 'An evening of Soul and Sur', a Musical Mehfil on April 18,	Film screening The Bangalore Film Forum will screen two films, 'War at a Distance' (2003) and 'Serious Games' (2011) by Harun Farocki, on April 18, 6 pm, at Untitled Arts Foundation, J P Nagar. For tickets, visit	Date festival Brujin and Urbanaut are hosting Khajoomama, a food-led cultural experience about dates, along with research on the history of the date, on April 19, 12-6 pm. Two sessions will be held at 12 pm and 4.30 pm, at Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road. For details, visit sabhablr.in

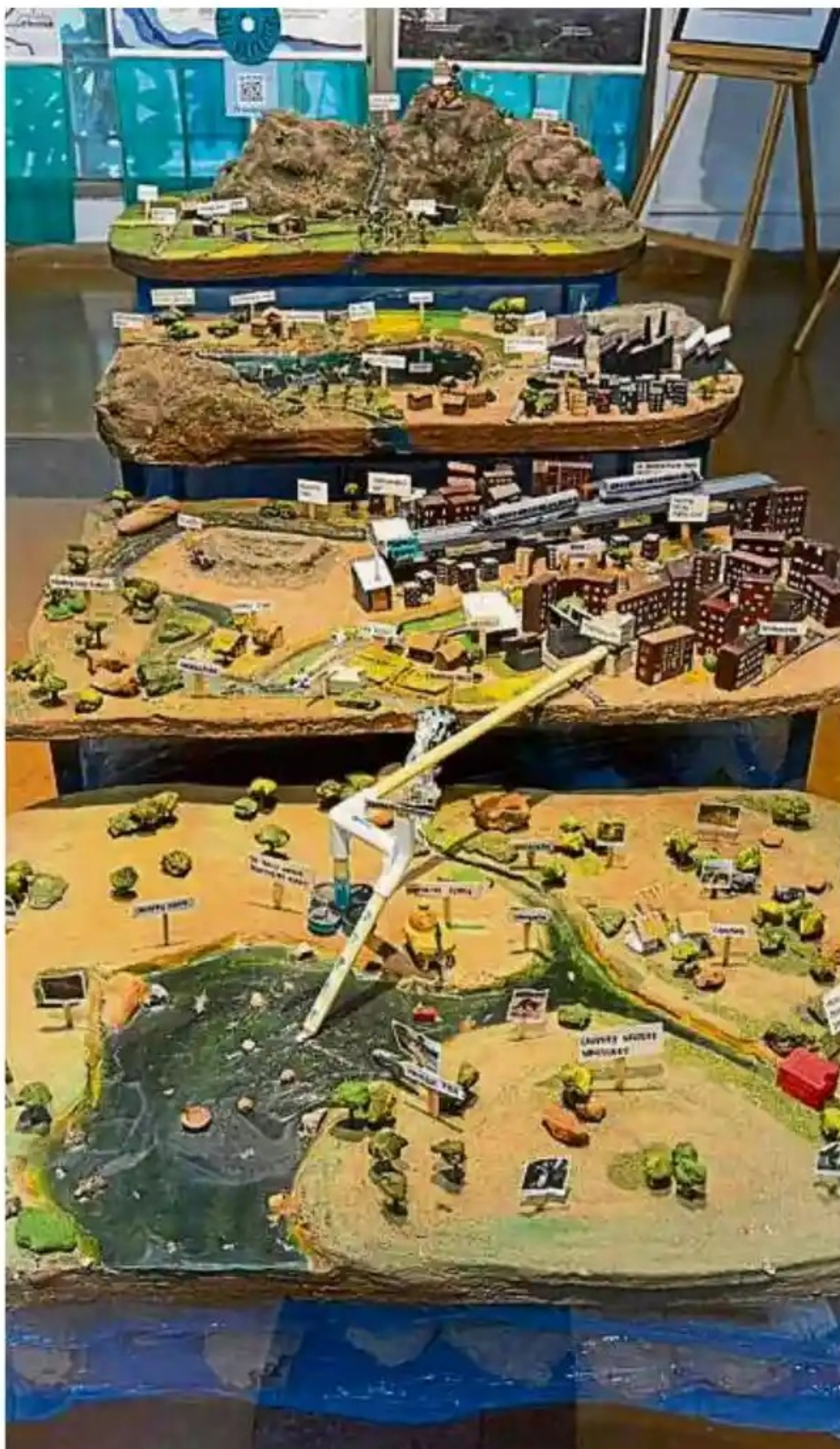
Artwork on city's vanishing rivers

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

When travelling between Bengaluru and Mysuru, you are greeted with a strong stench near Kengeri. Popularly called the 'Kengeri mori', it was once a thriving river that provided drinking water to the city.

The city, with its increasing population, faces a water shortage every year, and successive governments have struggled to ensure a steady supply. Plans such as the Yettinahole project, which aims to divert water from west-flowing streams in the Western Ghats to drought-prone central and eastern districts, have stirred much debate. But once upon a time, five rivers shaped the geography of Bengaluru — the Arkavathi, Vrishabhavati, Dakshina Pinakini, Suvarnamukhi, and Chinnar. Today, all five are highly polluted with the city's sanitary and industrial waste. They have been declared "ecologically dead" by many researchers and NGOs such as the Paani Earth Foundation.

At the National Gallery of Modern Art, an experience centre featuring a 3D model of the journey of the Arkavathi and Vrishabhavati rivers is on display. The model is made entirely out of household waste. A collaboration between the Socratus Foundation and the Paani Earth Foundation, it is a part of the Proximity Project, an initiative to make sustainable choices a part of everyday life.



The 3D model of the journey of the Arkavathi and Vrishabhavati rivers is made entirely out of household waste.

As part of the programme, a walk-through of the experience centre, a book talk on 'Whose River is it Anyway?', and a creative workshop to create your own river zine, is being organised on Saturday, 11 am to 1 pm at NGMA Bengaluru, Palace Road. The exhibition will run till May 31, and visitors must register in advance for specific walkthroughs.

Siddi quilting exhibition this weekend

ANANYA KOPPA
TEAM METROLIFE

As a part of 'Landscapes of Learning: A Visual Arts Learning Festival & Symposium' organised by Artsparks Foundation, Anitha N Reddy, will host a quilting exhibition and workshop along with artists from the Siddi community. The two-day event, scheduled for April 18 and 19, will be held at Venkatappa Art Gallery, Kasturba Road.

Anitha, an art historian, curator and community-based textile practitioner, has been working with Siddi women, a Karnataka community with African origins, for over two decades. Quilting is a part of their everyday lives. They use old clothes to stitch blankets and carpets mainly for household use.

In the beginning, the idea of showcasing their work was not easily accepted. For the women, quilting was just a household chore, not something display worthy. There was also hesitation in trusting an outsider, shaped by their experiences of racial discrimination. Anitha approached this slowly, going house to house, spending time with them and understanding their lives without imposing her academic frameworks.

Over time, the process became more collaborative. She focused on giving the women complete freedom in their work rather than a structured approach.

The session will examine quilting as an unwritten archive. It will explore how cloth can hold memory, identity and histories that are often left out of formal records. The workshop will also question who decides what is considered art — institutions, academics, or the market.

Her work has been presented at several platforms, including exhibitions in Delhi, Kochi, Singapore, London and internationally. While this has increased visibility, Anitha maintains that the intention has never been driven by demand or market value, but by the need to acknowledge and sustain the practice.

April 18-19. At Venkatappa Art Gallery, Kasturba Road. For details, visit art-sparks.org



Quilting is an integral part of Siddi women's daily life.

IPL fever: Bangaloreans, fan groups go beyond the stands

From a decked-up car to a fan's prized collection, and even community events, Bengaluru is celebrating its team in style this season

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Super fans of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) are finding innovative ways to express their love for the home team this season.

Vrooming by
J P Nagar resident Vishal Pujari has turned his Skoda Superb into a moving tribute to the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Wrapped in the team's colours, the car has been drawing attention at auto expos and across public spaces in the city.

"It took me around four days to design everything," says Pujari, who completed the project earlier this month. A freelance callisthenics trainer by profession, he had earlier modified two bikes with RCB-themed designs before selling them.

The car features the RCB logo, images of the full squad, and a striking graphic of Virat Kohli on the roof. Familiar with AutoCAD and graphic design tools, Pujari says he conceptualised and executed the design himself.

What began as a personal project quickly turned into a public attraction. "In the last few days, 15 to 20 influencers and bloggers have come by to shoot videos with the car," he says.

Pujari says, "I hope to take it to the stadium during the final match and drive it around the M G Road area," he adds.

If interested in viewing the car, check @bangalore_kannadiga on Instagram.

Collectibles at home
Sugumar Devaraj, a HAL Kodihalli resident, has been a supporter of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru since 2008 and has "never missed a single match" at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. His commitment has also taken him to matches in



A recent addition to Sugumar Devaraj's memorabilia collection is a painting of Virat Kohli and him holding the IPL trophy, created by an RCB fan from Ranebennur, Haveri.

other cities and overseas.

Devaraj is often caught on camera with his distinctive match day ensemble — a Native American inspired headgear and a fully red outfit. The headgear was gifted to him by his US-based friend. He has also built a collection of memorabilia reflecting his devotion to the team, including autographed jerseys, a 2008 official cap signed by the then RCB team, and fan-made gifts.

"One of the most recent additions to my collection of over 30 items is a

painting of Virat Kohli and me holding the IPL trophy, made by an RCB fan. It is now one of my most prized possessions. I am going to get it signed by Virat soon," he says.

He has also designed a special jersey featuring his own image, which he hopes to get signed by the RCB team.

Those interested in viewing his collection can contact him on @sportssugumar on Instagram.

Fan tournament, marathon
Founded in 2009, the RCB Fans Army comes together as a community before every RCB match. Around 30 to 35 members usually gather at Church Street, shoot content, and conduct street interviews for the group's social media, and then head to the stadium together.

Beyond match days, the group also hosts events. Later this month, they are organising a box cricket tournament on April 25 and 26. Fans can register as individuals and will be placed into mixed teams. "The whole aim is to get to know another person and play as a team together," says Allen Abhishek, founder of the group.

They are also planning 5K and 7K runs in early May, encouraging participants to turn up in RCB jerseys.

For details, check @rcb_fanarmy.official on Instagram.



Vishal Pujari has turned his Skoda Superb into a tribute to RCB. He completed the project earlier this month.

CITY MIX

Film screening

Being Bhaijaan', a film directed by Samreen Farooqui and Shabani Hassanwalia, will be screened at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on April 19, 5 pm. It will be

followed by a conversation between Aastha Chauhan and the directors. For ages 18 and above. Entry free. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Tree walk

Join Reena Chengappa and Sudha Palepu on a morning tree walk at Studio 345 in Cooke Town, on April 19, 8 am to 1.30 pm. This will be followed by a session in making inks and colours from botanicals collected during the walk. Check @s_palepu on Instagram

B'lurean longlisted for two awards

Arjun Krishnan has been longlisted for two awards — the IGF Archer Amish Award for Storytellers, and the S L Bharyappa Prize — for his book 'Daughter of Two Rivers'. A historical fantasy, it tells the story of warriors, politics, and a destiny shaped by different empires. Besides being an author, he is also an entrepreneur and an amateur musician.



Tribute to Dr Rajkumar

Azim Premji University presents 'Remembering Dr Rajkumar' at Indian Institute of World Culture, B P Wadia Road, Basavanagudi, on April 17, 6 to 8 pm. The programme will include a performance of Dr Rajkumar's film songs by musicians Mohan Krishna and Gowri, and a screening of a short documentary of the actor produced by Maya Chandra, founder-director of Maya. It also includes a talk on the relevance of messages from the actor's films by Soumya Manjunath Chavan, former director and second secretary, Culture, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Tanzania. For details, visit iiwc.in

Artist creates underwater scenes with textile

Finland native Lina Can, who reimagines natural fibres, held her first Bengaluru exhibition last week

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Finnish artist, Lina Can, brings together wool, cotton and silk to create muted statement pieces that carry a message of sustainability. She recently showcased some of her works at Sabha Blr on Kamaraj Road.

The 44-year-old artist moved to Bengaluru in October 2024 and works as a designer for a global fashion brand.

Her art, she says, started as a way to reconnect with herself after motherhood. "I wanted a space that was just for myself. I started experimenting with textile art, and it just grew from there," she explains.

Though she has been creating art for over a decade, she held her first exhibition in 2022 in Sweden, where she was living at the time. "Most people noted that they had never seen anything like it before. And that there was so much happening," she recalls. She held her third exhibition in 2024 after being selected as one of the 'New artists of Sweden' by Liljevalchs Konsthall, an exhibition centre in Stockholm.

Lina grew up snorkelling and diving every summer. "I would spend my childhood summers in the Finnish archipelago, and that's how I got

hooked," she shares, adding that she continues to enjoy it as an adult. Consequently, her work is informed by what she sees underwater. Sea urchins are a recurring motif, for instance, as are coral and sea anemone shapes.

The contrasting shapes and textures are knitted or crocheted separately and then assembled on a single canvas. "Most of them, which measure 45x30cm, take about a month on average. I have also been working on a large piece (170x80cm) for the past one-and-a-half years," she says. Her exhibition at Sabha featured eight pieces, all marked by a muted colour

palette of beige, brown, light yellow and white.

Most of the wool and yarn she uses are sourced from sheep farms in Sweden and from friends and family who do not have any use for it. "I never buy wool for my art," she notes, adding that she prefers to work with natural fibres, but has on occasion used mixed yarn too.

While her day job takes most of her time, she hopes to host one exhibition every year.

Lina Can uses wool, cotton and silk yarn to create her tactile textile art.



Lina Can



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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Prabhsimran stars in PBKS' 7-wicket win over MI



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State

Saleem's tenure as DG&IGP extended till 2027

P.5



State

8 pilgrims from K'taka killed in AP accident

P.3B



State

SC upholds Ranya Rao's detention

P.3

Nation

2 planes come into contact, damaged

P.10

PM reassures Lok Sabha ahead of delimitation vote

Modi says those opposing women's quota Bill may have to bear political cost

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

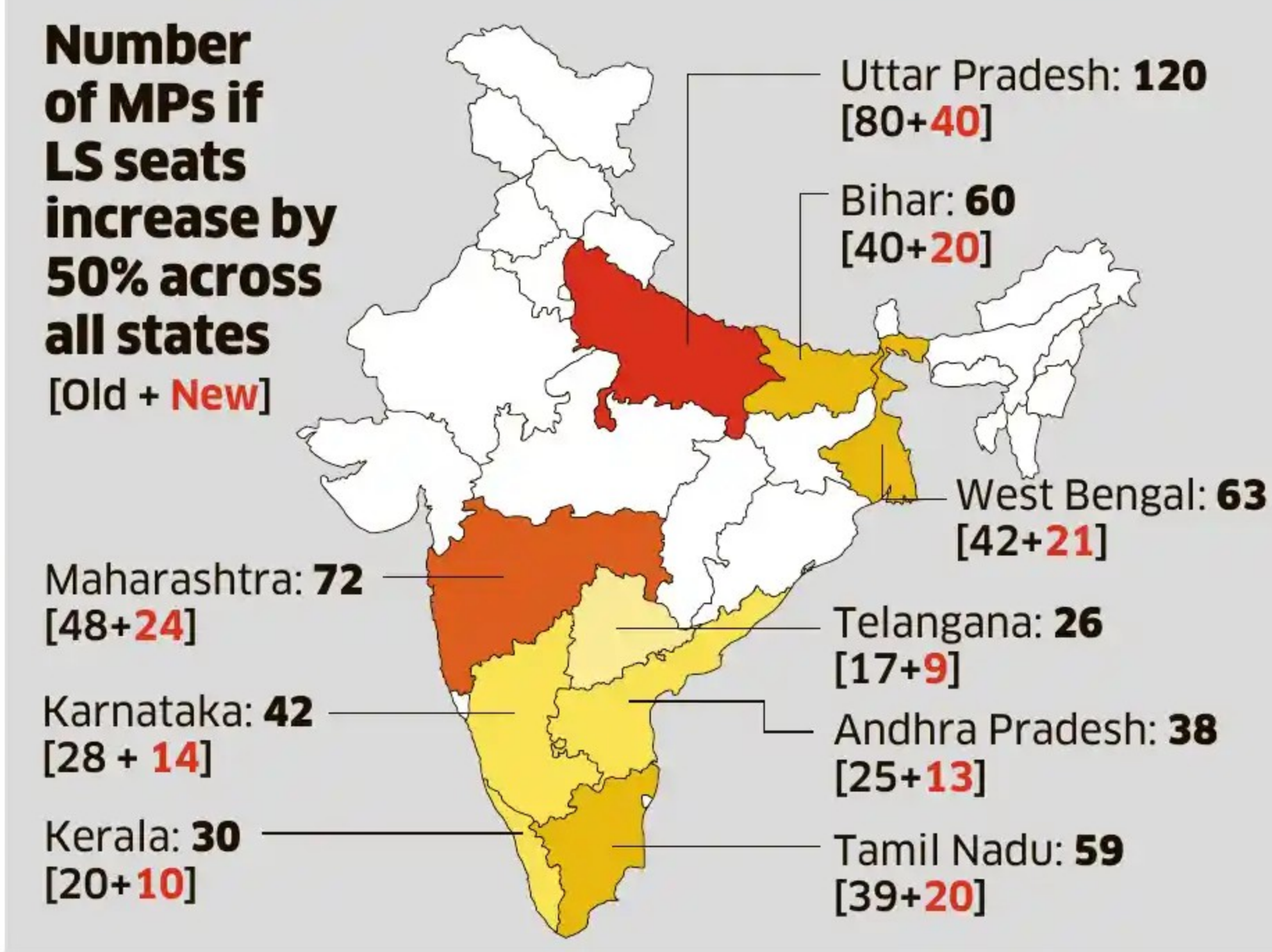
Defending the Bills for early implementation of women's quota and constitutional amendment to raise the number of Lok Sabha seats, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assured Parliament that the legislation will not alter the proportional representation of states in the Lower House.

Intervening in the debate in Lok Sabha on the three bills, Modi said the seats would be increased by adhering to "demographic proportions established during previous governments" for delimitation.

"I want to say with great responsibility that this decision-making process will not discriminate against anyone. The delimitation carried out in the past under previous governments will remain unchanged in its proportions, and any increase will also be in the



PM Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. PTI



same proportion," Modi said.

The Lok Sabha will vote on the Bills on Friday. The Opposition, which has vowed to vote against the Bills, called the government's move an "open attack" on democracy.

Home Minister Amit Shah,

in a short intervention, said a "practical interpretation" will show no one stands to lose as the number of seats in each state will go up by 50%.

► **Delimitation, Page 8**
Women's Reservation Act, 2023, notified, Page 11

“In a House of 543, Karnataka currently has 28 seats, which means 5.15% of the MPs in this House come from Karnataka. After this Bill is passed and the Constitution is amended, Karnataka's number will increase to 42, and its percentage in a Lok Sabha of 816 members will be 5.14%.”

Amit Shah, Home Minister

“The government began finishing off democracy by putting pressure on institutions, such as the Election Commission, the judiciary, the media, etc., but now, an open attack on democracy is being launched.”

Priyanka Gandhi, Congress

Significance of Oppn's 185 votes

The Opposition garnered 185 votes in the LS while objecting to the introduction of the Constitution amendment Bill. Passage of the Bill will need a two-thirds majority. With 360 votes required for passage if all 540 MPs are voting, the Opposition has crossed the 181-mark needed to block it.

Details on Page 11

People cleared till 2 days before Bengal polls can vote: SC on SIR

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has ordered that the voters in West Bengal whose claims against exclusion from electoral rolls are cleared by appellate tribunals at least two days before polling will be entitled to vote in the two-phase elections to be held on April 23 and 29.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, in its order on April 13, directed the Election Commission to publish supplementary rolls with the names of eligible voters on April 21 and 27, so that these voters can exercise their franchise two days later.

The court invoked its powers under Article 142 to direct the EC that wherever the appellate tribunals are able to decide the appeals by April 21 or April 27, such appellate orders would be given effect to by issuing a supplementary roll.

► **Bengal poll, Page 8**

Cabinet okays 11 flyovers, elevated corridors worth Rs 13,262 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major push to decongest Bengaluru's traffic, the state Cabinet on Thursday cleared 11 flyovers and elevated corridors costing Rs 13,262 crore. These projects, spanning 75.60 km, cover all five municipal corporations of the city.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said the projects will be implemented by Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Ltd, a special-purpose vehicle tasked with building mega projects.

The projects have been divided into three categories

Rohit Vemula Bill cleared

The Cabinet on Thursday cleared the Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Exclusion or Injustice) (Education and Dignity Rights) Bill, 2025 to prevent discrimination in higher education institutions. **Details on Page 8**

based on their length and scale. Major stretches include long corridors such as Yeshwantpur to KR Puram (28 km) and Ragigudda to Talaghattapura on Kanakapura Road (18.5 km), along with several shorter flyovers and grade separators.

B S Prahalad, Director (Technical), B-SMILE, said the flyovers were selected based on a two-year study, which also analysed the origin and destination points.

"This is an end-to-end solution. The project will make commuting easy across the city," he said.

The Cabinet also granted administrative approval for decongesting the IOC Junction, clearing a revised estimate of Rs 436.44 crore for constructing an elevated rotary flyover along with a two-lane rail overbridge at Baiyappanahalli.

► **Cabinet, Page 8**

Trump says Israel, Lebanon agreed to 10-day ceasefire

CAIRO, AP: Israel and Lebanon have agreed to a 10-day ceasefire, President Donald Trump announced on Thursday, two days after the countries held their first direct diplomatic talks in decades.

The truce that Trump said

was scheduled to begin at 5 pm Eastern follows more than a month of war between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon.

Lebanon has insisted on a ceasefire to stop the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah

before engaging in more talks, while vowing to commit to disarming the group.

The president also invited the leaders of Israel and Lebanon to the White House for the countries' first high-level talks since 1983.

Govt prioritises drinking water as shortage looms

BENGALURU, DHNS

While Karnataka is reeling under a punishing summer, the state government Thursday warned of a delayed and deficit monsoon with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directing officials to prioritise water for drinking over irrigation.

"The India Meteorological Department has forecast below-normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon this year. While August may see normal rainfall, September is expected to receive less rain," Siddaramaiah said at a review meeting.

According to the government, 22 districts are likely to receive 'below normal' rainfall between June and September. "With the monsoon likely to be delayed, officials were directed to ensure adequate water availability in reservoirs until mid-July and to prioritise drinking water over irrigation," Siddaramaiah



FILE PHOTO

WATER WOES

- 22 dists likely to receive 'below normal' rainfall during June-Sept
- Most dists in North Interior Karnataka likely to experience more heatwaves
- 114 taluks and 598 panchayats experiencing drinking water shortage this summer
- 27 urban local bodies facing drinking water shortage
- 95 more ULBs identified as vulnerable
- 213 taluks, 2,410 panchayats face threat of shortage

Reservoir levels dip

The water level in 14 major reservoirs of Karnataka is just 36% of their capacity, less than the level on the same day last year. As on April 16, 2026, the reservoirs held 322 tmc ft of water against the total capacity of 895 tmc ft. **Page 5**

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CIVIC PENALTY

Delay in layout amenities: BDA ordered to pay Rs 56 lakh to resident

Six-year wait without roads, water supply, streetlights & power

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a strong rebuke to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Karnataka's real estate regulator has directed it to pay Rs 56.03 lakh to a Jayanagar resident for delaying the comple-

tion of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout by over six years. The ruling could have wider ramifications, as the incomplete layout — located near Challaghatta — comprises around 27,000 sites.

In its order dated April 8, RERA Chairman Rakesh Singh and member GR Reddy held that the complainant was entitled to relief, noting that the site lacked basic amenities such as roads, water supply, streetlights, and electricity. The order also recorded that the BDA's counsel neither filed objections nor rebutted the memo of calculations submitted

for the claimed relief amount.

According to the order, the compensation of Rs 56.03 lakh was calculated for the six-year delay from June 2020 to February 2026, including interest at the SBI Marginal Cost of Lending Rate plus 2%. "Further, interest from February 2026 until the completion of basic amenities shall be calculated similarly and paid to the complainant," the order stated.

In 2025, Mridula Krishnapur, a resident of Jayanagar, approached RERA seeking relief for the delay.

She stated that she had paid Rs

96.87 lakh in June 2020 and was issued a possession certificate shortly thereafter. However, the site lacked the infrastructure necessary for residential construction. "Till date, the development remains incomplete," her complaint said.

Citing a landmark Supreme Court ruling in New Tech Promoters Vs State of Uttar Pradesh, RERA held that mere execution of a sale deed and physical hand-over of an open plot is insufficient if promised basic infrastructure has not been provided.

Although BDA's advocate, B Vachan, appeared before

RERA in response to the notice, no statement of objections or supporting documents were submitted.

"When specific allegations are made and remain unrebutted, an adverse inference must be drawn. The absence of rebuttal, coupled with documentary evidence and multiple similar complaints, clearly establishes that the delay in completing amenities is attributable to the respondent-developer," the order noted.

The project's RERA registration, which was valid only until December 31, 2021, has since lapsed.

Homebuyer's complaint



In 2025, Jayanagar resident Mridula Krishnapur approached RERA seeking relief over delays in the Kempegowda Layout project. She said she had paid Rs 96.87 lakh in June 2020 and received a possession certificate soon after. However, the site lacked basic infrastructure required for construction. "Till date, the development remains incomplete," her complaint stated.



The seized mobile phones on display. BENGALURU POLICE

Cops recover 385 mobile phones worth Rs 1.15 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police's East Division has recovered 385 stolen mobile phones worth Rs 1.15 crore.

Police used the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal to track the phones that were either lost or stolen.

"Across 14 police station jurisdictions in the East Division, police officers and staff have been continuously working on tracing lost and stolen mobile phones with assistance of the CEIR portal. In March 2026, a total of 385 mobile phones were recovered," the police said in a statement.

Two held for illegally selling foreign cigarettes

BENGALURU, DHNS: City police have arrested two people for allegedly selling foreign cigarettes and recovered 1,026 bundles of the contraband worth Rs 35 lakh.

Tipped off by an informant, the police learned that banned foreign cigarettes of various brands were being stored and sold from a shop and godown located in Tribhuvan Building, 5th Main Road, Gandhinagar, within the Upparpet police station limits.

Acting on this information, a case was registered under the COTPA Act, and a raid was conducted at the premises, resulting in the arrest of two people.

During interrogation, the accused confessed that the cigarettes were being supplied by a Delhi-based person, and they sold them to the public for a higher cost.

The duo was released on station bail after due notice, while efforts are on to trace the Delhi-based supplier. Further investigation is on.

Rs 10-lakh haul

In a separate case, another suspect was arrested near Thalaghattapura for allegedly selling banned e-cigarettes.

Police recovered 440 e-cigarettes, 80 refills, 1 mobile phone, and Rs 4,000 in cash from the suspect, besides also impounding a car, all worth Rs 10 lakh.

Man arrested for house theft

BENGALURU, DHNS: City police have arrested a man in connection with a house theft case and recovered stolen goods worth Rs 35 lakh. The suspect allegedly confessed and revealed that he had pledged and sold the stolen valuables at jewellery shops in Girinagar and KR Puram.

Drone survey flags large-scale under reporting

BENGALURU, DHNS



Close to 1.7 lakh property owners have pending dues of Rs 600 crore, Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil said.

While 95% of owners pay property tax promptly, 5% do not pay despite receiving multiple notices. He said measures such as auction of properties and takeover by civic bodies

were used as a last resort when owners failed to clear dues.

"It is not right to let those who do not pay get away with it. It discourages those paying promptly. Hence, we have initiated action. There are property owners who have dues pending for more than five years now. It is not that they do not know, but they just do not respond even after multiple notices," said Munish Moudgil, Special



Seized contraband displayed by the police as part of an operation, highlighting the scale of the confiscation and the efforts taken to curb illegal activities. PHOTO: BENGALURU POLICE

Bengaluru drug bust: 10 arrested; contraband worth Rs 23 cr seized

BENGALURU, DHNS: Continuing their crackdown, Bengaluru city police arrested 10 suspects and seized drugs with an estimated market value of Rs 23.63 crore.

The operations were carried out over the past few weeks by officials from the Yelahanka New Town, DJ Halli, Banaswadi, Koramangala, Bommanahalli and Pulakeshinagar police stations.

Those arrested include three foreign nationals, including two women, two locals and five people from other states.

The seized contraband includes 5.919 kg of MDMA crystals, 1.151 kg of cocaine, 21 kg of ganja and 19 grams of ecstasy pills. One two-wheeler was also impounded. The value of the seized contraband is Rs 11.81 crore, with the market value nearly double.

"Based on credible information received on various dates, officers and staff came to know that prohibited narcotic substances such as MDMA (crystal), cocaine, ganja, and ecstasy pills were being sold within the limits of the Yelahanka New Town, DJ Halli,

Koramangala, Bommanahalli, and Pulakeshinagar police stations," the Bengaluru police said in a statement.

"Acting on this information, cases were registered under the NDPS Act at the respective police stations, and raids were conducted at the identified locations. During these operations, a total of 10 accused persons were apprehended on different dates."

During interrogation, the suspects said they procured narcotic substances such as MDMA (crystal), cocaine, ganja and ecstasy pills from foreign, interstate and local unidentified suppliers at lower prices and sold them to the public, including college students.

"Efforts are ongoing to trace the foreign and interstate suppliers involved in supplying these narcotic substances. Investigation into the cases is in progress."

"All suspects, including the two foreign women, were produced before the court on different dates and have been remanded to judicial custody," the police said.

GBA to roll out online khata correction

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will soon introduce an online khata correction facility to improve citizen services and ease corrections.

"Except for the owner's name and property measurements, all other details will be made available for citizen correction, including location, ward number, and related information," Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil said. So far, 25 lakh draft khata applications



Munish Moudgil

have been submitted online, of which more than 10 lakh citizens have received their final e-khata. "If all records are in order, the final e-khata is issued within an average of five days," he said.

"More than 1,000 applications are being received daily, reflecting the growing adoption of the system by citizens. On average, one e-khata is issued every 30 seconds, demonstrating the efficiency and speed of the digital processing system," he said.

Commissioner (Revenue).

The drone survey also revealed that close to 23,000 properties underreported tax, evading Rs 688 crore.

"We have served them show

cause notices after our officers inspected the properties. We do not depend only on the drone survey. Many of them would have used properties for commercial purposes or given

it out for rent and would not have shown that while paying the property taxes," he said.

Such under assessment has resulted in revenue losses of Rs 688 crore, Moudgil said.

Parks need all-day access: Citizens to Jayanagar MLA

BENGALURU, DHNS

HeatWatch Foundation, backed by over 70 residents, has written to Jayanagar MLA CK Ramamurthy seeking restoration of extended park timings.

In 2024, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) directed that parks remain open from 5 am to 10 pm. In December 2025, the Bengaluru South City Corporation revised timings to 5 am to 11 am and 4 pm to 8 pm.

The foundation, in its representation, noted that when parks remain closed during peak afternoon hours, people continue to seek shade and rest around these spaces, often under inadequate cover.



Ramamurthy

"This includes gig workers such as delivery partners and drivers, street vendors, domestic workers, sanitation workers, construction workers, security guards, and other informal workers who spend long hours outdoors."

"It also includes college students, elderly persons, children, and residents who rely on nearby public spaces for rest and relief from heat. Closure, therefore, does not eliminate the need for such spaces, but instead shifts use to areas outside park boundar-

ies without adequate facilities or protection from heat," the letter said.

The letter added that closing parks during peak afternoon hours could have serious implications.

"Rising temperatures linked to climate change and the urban heat island effect reinforce the need to ensure access to shaded public spaces during the hottest parts of the day. In a city facing rising heat, keeping parks open during the day provides vital shaded spaces where people can rest and recover from heat exposure," the letter said.

Volunteers observed that the revised timings are being followed across South Bengaluru.

Hotel blaze near NICE Toll, no casualties

BENGALURU, DHNS: A blaze broke out on Thursday afternoon at a hotel near Sompura NICE Toll, police said. No casualties or injuries were reported.

Fire Department officials said they received an alert at 1.23 pm at Shuddha Thindi. Fire tenders and firefighters were rushed to the spot.

"At the time of the incident there were no patrons. Firefighters acted immediately and contained the fire. No casualties or injuries have been reported," a senior firefighter told *DH*.

Preliminary probe suggested a short circuit in one of the culinary equipment may have triggered the blaze. Further investigation is underway.



The fire broke out on Thursday afternoon at a hotel near Sompura NICE Toll. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HERITAGE FAIR

Indian Artisans Haat exhibition from May 1-10

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian Artisans Haat (TIAH), an exclusive exhibition celebrating India's rich tradition of handlooms, handicrafts, artefacts, antiques, and sustainable handmade products curated from master artisans across the country, will be held at Jayamahal Palace Hotel from May 1 to 10.

The event provides a platform for artisans to exhibit, promote, and sell authentic handmade products.

"The Indian Artisans Haat is

among the largest artisan expos in Bengaluru, featuring over 150 master artisans from across India showcasing handlooms, handicrafts, artefacts and handmade creations," said Nagaraj Hundekar and Ahmed Khan, founders of TIAH.

Award-winning Rajasthani folk singer Ustad Lateef Khan will perform at the expo on all 10 days.

Highlights include Channapatna toys, crockery from Khurja (Uttar Pradesh), blue pottery from Jaipur, stone idols from Odisha, Madhubani paintings from Bihar, Tanjore paintings from Tamil Nadu, Kalighat paint-



ings from West Bengal, neem wood utensils from Odisha, resin art from Maharashtra, and leather puppets and lamps from Andhra Pradesh. Jewellery on display includes

oxidised pieces from West Bengal, terracotta and Lambani jewellery from Karnataka, seashell and pearl jewellery from West Bengal, and meenakari jewellery from Rajasthan.

Handloom works such as appliqué from Rajasthan, Bihar, Kutch, Lucknow, and Odisha will also be featured.

Contact details

For details, contact: 9880331685, 9886507007, 9972670107.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

BMS College of Law: Mock trial competition; TR Subramanya and MK Ramesh; College premises, Basavanagudi; 6 pm.

Nrupatunga University: Celebration of BR Ambedkar birth anniversary; Nrupatunga Road; 11.30 am.

CULTURAL

Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy: Suchitra Hirannaiah Theatre Festival; Staging of 'Namma Rangabhoomi, Namma Shakti' and 'Sevanti Prasanga'; Academy premises, Banashankari; 4.30 pm.

Sriramaseva Mandali Rama Navami Celebration Trust: Music by S Saraswati, S Saketaraman, HM Smita, Arjun Kumar, G Guruprasanna; Fort Highschool Ground, Chamarajpet; 5 pm.

Srivani Kala Kendra: Music by Sumati Manjunath, Malavi Manjunath, BC Manjunath and Shamit Gowda; Bharatanatya recital by students of Chitkala School of Dance; Kala Kendra premises, Basaveshwaranagar; 4.15 pm.

Rangarasadhare: Staging of play 'Suyudhana'; Seva Sadana, Malleswarum; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Prampara Foundation: Devotional fusion music by Arundhati Vasish-

ta, Varun Pradeep, Pravin D Rao, Manjunath Satyashil and team; Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyailkal; 6.15 pm.

Poornaprajna Vidyapitha: Discourse on 'Samagra Mahabharata' by Vyasanakere Prabhanjanacharya; Vidyapitha premises, Katriguppe Main Road; 6.30 pm.

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◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky



TEMPERATURES

Maximum 36.0°C
Minimum 24.4°C

Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) --
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) 28%
Sunset (April 17) 6:32 pm
Sunrise (April 18) 6:07 am
Moonrise 4:57 am
Moonset 5:32 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5:30 pm) Source: IMD



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10+ crore women become self-reliant through 90+ lakh SHGs

Folklore varsity under scanner for courses beyond scope

SC upholds preventive detention of actor Ranya Rao

Panel to probe PG subjects offered without approval

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka folklore (Janapada) university is under scanner for offering postgraduate courses which are not related to its specialisation, without getting approval for the course statutes from the government and the governor. Following a complaint in this regard, the higher education department has constituted a committee headed by former vice chancellor H C Boralingaiah to conduct an investigation and submit a report within 15 days. As per information available from the department, though the folklore university is a specialised university, it is offering PG courses in subjects like economics, master of social work, sociology, master of performing arts and visual arts for the last eight years. “The university is allowed to offer courses related to Janapada, but they are offering courses not related to its specialisation from the 2018-19 academic year. There is no approval for the subject statutes from the government or the governor. No university is allowed to run courses without getting approval for the statutes,” said a senior official of the department. The probe committee has board of studies and syndicate. “The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 and the committee is likely to finalise the report that day,” the official said. If one university is allowed to offer courses not related to its specialisation, other specialised universities will also want to do the same, the official added. Many faculties of the university have sought one-time approval for the course statutes, considering the future of students who have already received degrees. Interestingly, the university has created separate departments: department of humanities and department of social sciences, under which it is offering these subjects.


The Karnataka folklore (Janapada) University.



NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a major setback to Kannada film actor Harshavardhini Ranya Rao, the Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed her plea against the preventive detention order passed by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) against her for allegedly smuggling gold into the country. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh rejected the appeals filed by Rao's mother and another accused Sahil Sarkariya Jain's cousin against the December 19, 2025 order of the Karnataka High Court which upheld their detention. In its judgment, the court found substantial compliance has been made on behalf of the respondent – authorities to establish that the detention order has not been issued in contravention of the constitutional mandate under Article 22(3) (b) of the Constitution. Both Ranya Rao and Jain were detained on April 22, 2025 and April 23, 2025 respectively, under provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) respectively for facilitating the disposal of consignments of foreign-marked gold bars on four different occasions between November 14, 2024 and February 14, 2025. They have challenged their detention orders mostly on technical and procedural grounds. On the claim of not being granted legal assistance, the bench said the import of Article 22(3)(b) of the Constitution can be seen on a reading of Section 8(e) of the COFEPOSA Act and a detenu cannot seek legal assistance as a matter of right. The court also said any interpretation of the provision to the contrary would render Section 8(e) of the COFEPOSA Act otiose and redundant, especially when it draws its source from the mandate provided under Article 22(3)(b) of the Constitution. “When an officer merely places the records and assists the advisory board on behalf of the detaining authority, a detenu cannot seek legal assistance in a routine manner,” the bench said. In respect of contentions made on behalf of the accused on the non-supply of the pen drive by the authorities, the bench found that substantial compliance has been made by the officials of the Customs authorities. “Not only were the contents of the pen drive displayed to the detenus on a laptop in the prison, but endeavours were also made to supply the pen drive to the concerned representatives of the detenus,” the bench said. The court said, when the prison rules, as such, do not facilitate a detenu/prisoner to have access to electronic gadgets, it cannot be said that the same should be made available to the detenus, more so, when no such requests were renewed by the detenus. “Thus, we hold that the contention of non-supply of the pen drive would amount to non-furnishing of the relied upon documents is nothing but an afterthought,” it said. The court also pointed out the satisfaction of the detaining authority is a subjective one and that adequate reasons have been recorded therein. The bench noted, “The materials are also to the effect that there were prior occurrences of disposal of foreign marked-gold bars in India, and a live and proximate link qua the present incident also stands established insofar as the detenu Sahil Sarkariya Jain is concerned. Further, all the documents relied upon have been duly furnished to the detenus.”

Incomplete charge sheet does not revive right to claim statutory bail, says High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has said that mere filing of an incomplete charge sheet or the postscript reserving a right to file supplementary charge sheet, cannot mean that the accused can be released on grant of statutory bail. The court said this while dismissing the bail petition filed by a 27-year-old person from Bengaluru city seeking statutory/default bail for offences under Pocco. “The filing of charge sheet without accompanying reports as those from the FSL or the CDR does not denude it of its character as a final report in the eye of law nor does it revive or confer upon the accused a right to claim statutory bail,” Justice M Nagaprasanna said. The petitioner, working as housekeeping staff in a private hospital, had a physical relationship with a co-worker, despite knowing that she was underaged. The girl died by suicide and it was found that she was pregnant at the time of her death. An FIR was registered for offences punishable under BNS sections 64 and 108, sections 3(2)(v-a), 3(1)(w)(ii) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and sections 3, 4, 5(j)(ii), (l) and 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocco) Act based on the complaint by deceased's mother. On December 23, 2025, the special court refused default bail to the petitioner accused. Challenging rejection of bail, the petitioner contended that BNSS section 193(2) mandates that the charge sheet should be filed within 60 days for offences punishable under Section 64 of the BNS or for offences under the Pocco Act. It was further submitted that the charge sheet was incomplete as the FSL report, DNA report, CDRs or retrieval of mobile phone contents were not filed along with it. Justice Nagaprasanna cited the Apex Court judgement and said that once a charge sheet is filed within the stipulated period, with all material barring the reports, the right to statutory bail stands extinguished. “The criminal process is not a ritual of perfection at its inception; it is an evolving inquiry where additional evidence may surface in the fullness of time. To insist upon absolute completeness at the stage of filing of the charge sheet would be to impose an impracticable burden upon the investigative machinery, a caveat, this would be vis-a-vis the facts obtained in each of the cases. The charge sheet having been filed within 90 days and its alleged incompleteness being of no legal consequence to the claim of default bail, the petitioner cannot be enlarged or set at liberty on the said ground,” the court said.

Smoke scare in bus ferrying murder convict Vinay Kulkarni

BENGALURU, DHNS: A major mishap was averted on Wednesday when the bus transporting Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni and 16 other convicts to the Parappana Agrahara Central Jail developed a technical snag, causing thick smoke to rise from the vehicle. The incident occurred just after a Special Court for Elected Representatives convicted Kulkarni, the Dharwad Rural MLA, and 16 associates in connection with the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogeshgouda. According to police sources, the bus was nearing the central prison when a suspected short circuit, reportedly compounded by a diesel leak led to a sudden ignition. Within moments, the interior of the vehicle was engulfed in dense smoke, causing panic among the passengers and the police escort team. Acting quickly, the escort team managed to stop the vehicle and evacuate all 17 convicts safely. “The situation was brought under control immediately. Fortunately, no one sustained any injuries,” a senior police officer stated. Following the evacuation, the convicts were shifted to alternative vehicles, including police cars, and were escorted to the prison premises.

Aerospace conference tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore along with TBS Education, will host ninth edition of International Conference on Future of Aviation and Aerospace on April 18. The meet will bring together industry leaders, researchers, and academics to discuss emerging trends in aviation and aerospace sector. For details, visit iimb.ac.in.

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Summer special
trains to Bengal
& Bihar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways will operate special trains connecting Bengaluru with destinations in West Bengal and Bihar.

Train number 06551 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 8.50 am on April 17 and 24 and reach Balurghat (West Bengal) at 6 am on Sundays.

In the return direction, train number 06552 will depart from Balurghat at 5.15 am on April 20 and 27 to arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 3 am on Wednesdays.

Train number 05551 will depart from Saharsa at 8.25 pm on April 16, 23 and 30 and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 10.30 pm on Saturdays.

In the return direction, train number 05552 will depart from Yeshwantpur at 7 am on April 19, 26 and May 3 to reach Saharsa at 11 am on Tuesdays.

Man held for
illegally selling
IPL tickets

BENGALURU, DHNS: The CCB police have arrested a man for allegedly illegally selling IPL tickets.

CCB's probe has revealed that 181 tickets of various denominations worth Rs 17.52 lakh were purchased from TicketGenie and illegally sold to the public in black by the arrested suspect at a higher price.

The police interrogated a person who worked at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and was found to be selling cricket match tickets to the public at a higher price.

"During the investigation, it was found that 50 tickets for the cricket match between RCB and LSG were purchased from TicketGenie in the name of Swastik Heavy Engineering and Industrial Automation Consultant Company, and another 50 tickets were purchased in the name of Dharani Computers Company, which were then sold to the public in the black market at a higher price through the accused person," the police said.

It was also found that during the cricket match between RCB and CSK on March 28, another person had purchased a total of 81 tickets worth Rs 6.60 lakh in the name of Swastik Heavy Engineering and Industrial Automation Consultant Company, and the suspect had sold them to the public at a higher price. Further probe is in progress.

More auto drivers keen to switch from LPG/CNG to electric

Retrofitting costs Rs 2.5 lakh; new e-autos cost Rs 4 lakh

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Auto drivers using CNG and LPG are now opting to convert their vehicles to electric ones, instead of spending Rs 4 lakh on a new electric auto. The Transport Department has seen a rise in enquiries regarding the conversion process, an official said.

"There is growing interest

among drivers, and we also are trying to create awareness. Many drivers come to us enquiring about the conversion process and all that it entails," the official told DH.

Drivers are required to obtain retrofit certificates from the department to install the retrofitment kit. This includes the process of converting CNG and LPG autos to electric ones. The process has also caught

the interest of auto drivers in light of the ongoing gas crisis, which has forced them to wait for hours at the gas stations.

"I'm currently saving money to convert my LPG auto to electric. Overall, I need Rs 2.5 lakh to get the work done, which is almost 40-50% cheaper than buying a new electric auto. For the past two weeks, I've been operating at a loss, as prices have increased, and I spent most of the time waiting at gas stations. Electric autos are the way forward," said Afroz A, a driver from Sultanpalya.

Thirty-two-year-old Praveen Kumar converted his father's auto to an electric one last month. "My father passed away in October. He drove

Autos with permits

- LPG autos: 1.35 lakh
- CNG autos: 69,551
- E-autos: 33

Electric vehicles were earlier exempted from permits. The Transport Department began issuing them permits only towards the end of 2025.

this auto for years, and it held sentimental value, so after he passed away I continue to drive it. But as the engine was getting old, it had lots of issues. Around the same time, there was also a growing conversation about the war and how it would impact gas prices. So I did some

research and found that this conversion process would be the most cost-effective and efficient option," he added.

The conversion process takes an average of 10-14 days, including getting permission from the RTO, said C Suresh Kumar, a 61-year-old Mathikere resident, who also began using an electric auto last month. The improved electric vehicle charging facilities in the city have also acted as a positive marker, drivers said. "I converted my auto in January and have not faced any trouble with the charging. There are several charging points across the city, and the converted autos have fast charging," said Pattabiram, 51.

Hoteliers' assn to join hands with GBA for biogas plant

Project helps process waste; give back alternative fuel

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association (BBHA) is in talks with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and a private company to set up a bio gas plant.

According to initial discussions, GBA will provide land for the project. A couple of properties have been inspected and one of them will soon be finalised.

"We are in talks with a few reputed private companies in this field. We want them to build and operate the facility," PC Rao from BBHA told DH.

The plant is expected to have a capacity of 200 tonnes and the hoteliers' association will coordinate with its members to ensure the plant receives the waste required for processing.

While the plant helps production of biogas and provides alternative fuel for cooking, it also helps scientific management of the large quantity of waste produced in hotels.

"Waste disposal is very important for hotels since they produce a large amount of it every day. With a biogas plant, we



A file photo of the biogas plant at Koramangala in Bengaluru. The Bruhat Bangalore Hotels' Association is planning to rope in the Gas Authority of India Limited to help supply the gas produced at its proposed plant to hotels in the city.

will be able to process the waste produced in a scientific way," Rao noted.

The BBHA is planning to rope in Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to help supply the gas produced at the plant to hotels in the city. Since GAIL already has an established pipeline network, it would be easy to supply the produced gas, hoteliers opined.

However, the discussion is still in the preliminary stage and it may take some time to arrive at a final plan.

The LPG crisis owing to the conflict in West Asia has pushed

hoteliers to think about alternative methods to fuel their kitchens and biogas is one of them.

The Koramangala biogas plant set up by the city corporation has helped fuel the popular restaurant Empire and this has helped the restaurant operate without depending on LPG cylinders.

At present, there are seven functional biogas plants set up by GBA. Recently, GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao said that the corporations under GBA will set up many more in the coming days.

Ensure strict & faithful implementation of menstrual leave policy, HC tells govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court has directed the state government to ensure strict and faithful implementation of the menstrual leave policy, pending formal enactment of the proposed legislation.

The court gave the direction while disposing of a petition filed by a woman hotel worker from Gokak taluk, Belagavi district, seeking implementation of the November 20, 2025, order providing one-day menstrual leave for all working women.

"Upon such enactment, the state shall, without undue delay, frame appropriate rules to give full and meaningful effect to the statutory mandate. In the interregnum, it shall be incumbent upon the state to ensure effective operationalisation of the policy through the issuance of suitable guidelines, circulars, and administrative instructions, as may be necessary to secure its uniform, consistent, and rigorous implementation across all sectors. This court would also observe that the state ought not to be deterred or constrained by misplaced apprehensions founded upon a superficial invocation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

The advocate representing the petitioner, Chandravva, stated that after the order is passed, the state is obligated to take the necessary steps to sensitise workplaces across

JUSTICE M NAGAPRASANNA

Men and women stand equal in the eyes of the law; yet, they are biologically distinct. To acknowledge such differences, particularly in matters concerning health, dignity and bodily autonomy, is not to transgress the guarantee of equality, but to give it substantive meaning.

the organised and unorganised sectors.

Prathima Honnapura, Additional Advocate General (AAG), affirmed the progressive intent underlying the policy but pointed out certain practical impediments regarding effective monitoring and enforcement within the unorganised sector.

The court acknowledged menstruation as a matter warranting policy intervention in labour rights and human dignity, emphasising that the menstrual leave policy is rooted in the constitutional promise of equality.

Justice Nagaprasanna perused the policy, based on the recommendations of a committee and the subsequent opinion of the Law Commission of Karnataka.

"Men and women stand equal in the eyes of the law; yet, they are biologically distinct. To acknowledge such differences, particularly in matters concerning health, dignity and bodily autonomy, is not to transgress the guarantee of equality, but to give it substantive meaning," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that our Client intends to purchase the immovable property described in the **Schedule** below ("**Schedule Property**") which is owned by Mr. T. S. Gopala Gowda (son of Mr. H. Shyamanna @ H. Shamanna), residing at Tharabanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk (now Yelahanka Taluk), Bengaluru Urban District ("**Owner**"). The Owner has represented that he is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Any person, including any individuals, corporate bodies, partnership firms, banks, financial institutions, other lenders and government bodies, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim, benefit or demand in the Schedule Property or any portion thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, charge, lien, possession, assignment, attachment, exchange, gift or in any other manner, is hereby called upon to intimate their objections and / or claims in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within **ten (10) days** from the date of this notice. If no such objection or claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, except the Owner, has any right, interest or claim in or in relation to the Schedule Property and all rights, interests and claims, if any, which are not notified as stated above shall be treated as waived.

Schedule

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Survey No. 7/2 admeasuring 25.58 m. towards East to West; 6.34 m. on the North; and 8.22 m. on the South in all aggregating to 186.2224 sq. m. (2,003.753 sq. ft.) equivalent to 2 Guntas carved out of total extent of 21 Guntas in Survey No. 7/2 situated at Tharabanahalli Village, Jala-1 Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District which is bounded on its:

- East by : The land bearing Survey No. 7/9;
- West by : The land bearing Survey No. 7/1;
- North by : Remaining portion of the land bearing Survey No. 7/2; and
- South by : Road.

Signed/
R Vasudev / B S Raghavi
Magnah Law Partners

No. 1/24, Hanumanthappa Layout
Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru - 560 042
Phone No. 080-46462424
Email id: raghavi.bs@magnahlaw.com

Date: April 17, 2026

Jharkhand Flying Institute

State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport Road, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
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Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in

Ref. No.: JFI / Employment-25/2025-229 Dated :-16.04.2026

Notice

Jharkhand Flying Institute (JFI) invites application from qualified and experienced candidates for Technical/ Non-Technical Post for FTO.

Please visit our website:-www.jharkhandaviation.in and submit the resume to e-mail:-employment.jfi@gmail.com. Last date of receipt of application is- 23rd of April 2026.

Sd/-
(Managing Director)
Jharkhand Flying Institute

Auto LPG: IndianOil doubles supply to support K'taka's need

BENGALURU, DHNS: The IndianOil has significantly augmented its Auto LPG supplies to Bengaluru, increasing volumes by nearly 300%, to meet the sharp surge in demand arising from ongoing geopolitical disruptions, which affected private sector supply chains.

Across Karnataka, the IndianOil has also substantially ramped up supplies, increasing its daily dispatches to over 83 MT in recent days, compared to its pre-crisis average of around 43.5 MT per day, effectively doubling supplies to support the state's requirements during the ongoing disruption.

In a statement issued by V Vetrivelakkumar, Chief General Manager (Corporate Communications), IndianOil Corporation Limited, Southern Region, on April 15, 2026, the IndianOil supplied 75.53 metric tonnes (MT) of Auto LPG in Bengaluru—substantially higher than the usual daily supply of around 23 MT prior to the crisis.

The surge in demand has been primarily driven by disruptions in private Auto LPG dispensing stations (ALDS), which traditionally account for nearly 80% of the Auto LPG market in Bengaluru

as well as Karnataka. The non-operation or closure of these private outlets has led to a significant shift in customer traffic towards IndianOil Retail Outlets, resulting in long queues at IndianOil ALDS stations.

The IndianOil has responded with a comprehensive operational strategy, with all its ALDS outlets in Bengaluru functioning uninterrupted ensuring seamless service to our esteemed customers. In parallel, IndianOil's LPG bottling plants and loading locations had operated all seven days of the last week to meet the unprecedented demand situation.

The corporation acknowledges the inconvenience faced by the Auto LPG customers due to long queues at its outlets, it deeply empathizes with their situation and appreciates their patience. The IndianOil assures that it will continue to ensure product availability to the maximum level, upholding its responsibility as a public sector enterprise.

The IndianOil continues to closely monitor the situation and take proactive measures to stabilize supply and minimize disruptions across Karnataka.

HC stays road rage case against former Union minister's son

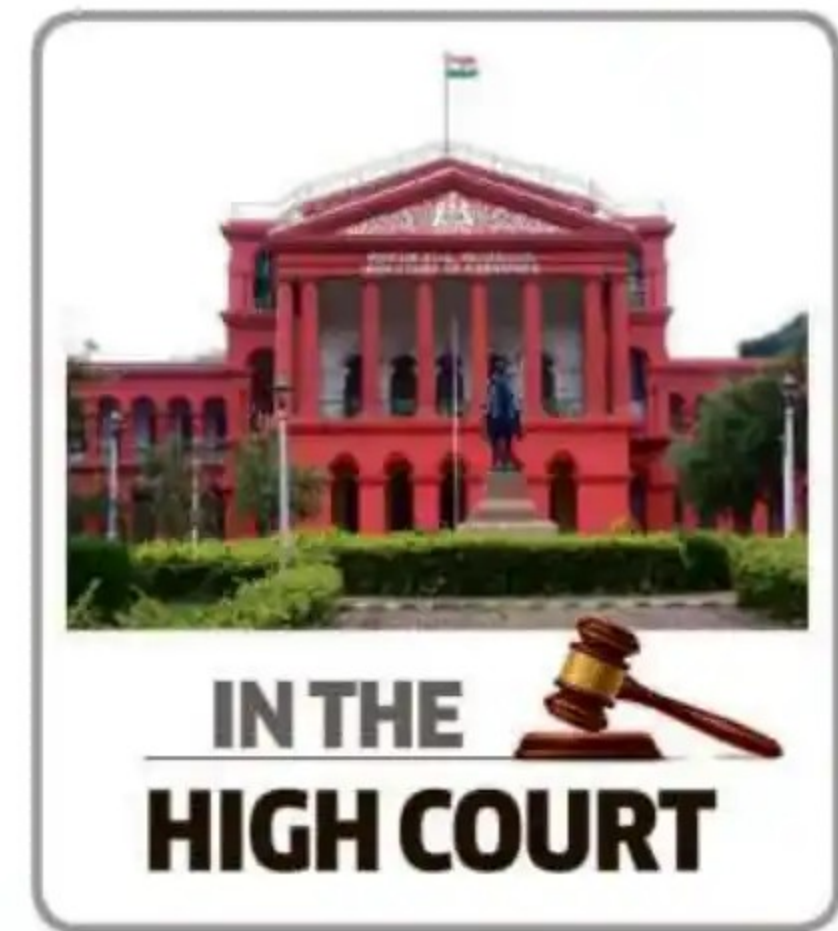
BENGALURU, DHNS: In a relief to Ashuthosh, son of former Union minister Ananth Kumar Hegde, the high court, on Thursday, stayed proceedings against him in a case of road rage registered in 2025.

Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav passed this order after hearing an interlocutory application (IA) filed by Ashuthosh in the petition filed by Ananth Kumar Hegde and other accused persons.

The case was registered against Hegde, his gun man and others on allegations that they assaulted a man, identified as one Saif Khan, and others over a scuffle about overtaking of the car. The incident had taken place at Hale Nijagal, near Nelamangala.

An FIR was registered under BNS sections 117 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 126 (wrongful restraint), 74 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 351(4) (criminal intimidation) and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke). The police had filed a chargesheet after the investigation.

Though not named in the



FIR, the police had included Ashuthosh as accused number 4 in the charge sheet.

While the petition filed by Hegde and other accused was pending, an IA was filed by Ashuthosh claiming that he was sitting in the rear seat of the accompanying car. It was further submitted that he was not at the spot when the alleged assault took place.

The advocate, representing Ashuthosh, stated while the FIR had not named him, there is not a whisper about his role in the chargesheet.

It was also stated that unnecessary inclusion of his name has hampered his education prospects as he is not able to get his passport.

"Perusal of the chargesheet does not meet any of the offences as made out nor any specific role is assigned to accused number 4. Insofar as accused number 4, prima facie, there are no allegations regarding commission of offence," Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav said and granted a stay on proceedings against Ashuthosh.

NOMINATED AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF COAL, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

4606, 4th Floor, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi-110023 | 011-26773431

“INVITATION OF BIDS FOR AUCTION OF COAL MINES / BLOCKS FOR SALE OF COAL”

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 4(1) and 4 (2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Section 11A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Rules made thereunder, the Government of India has directed the Nominated Authority to undertake the auction of 11 Coal mines / blocks under 25th Tranche of Auction under CM (SP) Act, 2015 and 15th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957 and 6 coal mines/blocks under 2nd Attempt of 23rd Tranche of Auction under CM(SP) Act, 2015 and 2nd Attempt of 13th Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957. The Tender process has been launched on 17th April 2026. Tender Document and other details can be accessed on <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/coalblock/index.jsp>.

CBC 04107/11/0001/2627

भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक संस्थान, मुंबई
Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai
(विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An Autonomous Body under Dept. of Science & Technology, Government of India)

Advt. No. 02/IIG/HRD/2026 Dated: April 15, 2026
IIG Mumbai invites online applications for admission to Integrated MS(R)-PhD Program in Physics (Space Physics) 2026. For detailed advertisement, please visit: <https://iigm.res.in/admissions/integrated-msr-ph-d>.
CBC 36127/12/0002/2627

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Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society
Department of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare
Namkum, Ranchi.

Phone No: 0651-2261000, 2261856 & 2261002 Mail ID: proc-health@jharkhandmail.gov.in
Tender Notice No. GEM/2026/B/7443485 Date: 15/04/2026

Tender Notice Through GeM Portal

Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society, Namkum, Ranchi invites separate Technical and price Bids (Two Bid System) through tender from the registered and eligible firms for “REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR THE SELECTION OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF 206 MEDICAL AMBULANCE SERVICES (EMAS) DEPLOYED ACROSS STATE OF JHARKHAND UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MEDICAL EDUCATION & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND”.

The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://gem.gov.in>.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of Work	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR THE SELECTION OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF 206 MEDICAL AMBULANCE SERVICES (EMAS) DEPLOYED ACROSS STATE OF JHARKHAND UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MEDICAL EDUCATION & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND.
2	Publication Date of Tender on website	15/04/2026
3	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time	24/04/2026 at 03:00 PM (R.C.H. Conference Hall, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834001)
4	Last Date & time for receipt of bid on	11/05/2026 at 02:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid through website	11/05/2026 at 02:30 PM
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	50,00,000/- (Fifty Lakh Only)
7	Contact no. of procurement person	9110943588

Note:- The above dates may change due to abrupt declaration of holidays.
Hard copies of Technical Bid will not be entertained.

Sd/-
State Nodal Officer Procurement Cell
Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society,
Namkum, Ranchi.

PR 377591 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(26-27)#D

Worried about narrative on Cong actions, says Jarkiholi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Thursday expressed concerns that the Congress would be seen as “going after” Muslims after Valmiki (ST) leaders.

He said he will speak to Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar about this.

“The message shouldn’t go that it was Valmikis first and now Muslims,” Jarkiholi, a Valmiki community leader, said.

Recent actions

He was referring to recent actions against MLCS Naseer Hussain and Abdul Jabbar as well as the sacking of KN Rajanna (a Valmiki) last year.

Two AC mechanics killed in head-on crash with tempo traveller

Driver admits the injured motorcyclists to hospital

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two mechanics were killed after their scooter collided head-on with a tempo traveller near Anjananagar on Wednesday night.

The deceased, 19-year-old Somanna and 22-year-old Praveen, were natives of Kalaburagi and were residing in Ullal Upanagara.

They were returning home after completing a work assignment when the accident occurred.

The incident took place on East West College Road around 7.40 pm, Kamakshipalya traffic police said.

The duo was heading towards Ullal Upanagara via Anjananagar when an oncoming tempo traveller crashed into their scooter. The impact left both riders with critical head injuries.

In a rare gesture, the driver of the vehicle rushed both injured youths to a near-

Data entry operator dies in hit-and-run

A 27-year-old woman was killed in a hit-and-run incident near Kodathi village within the Whitefield traffic police limits on Wednesday evening.

The deceased, Yashaswini, met with the accident around 7.10 pm while returning home from work on her two-wheeler, police said.

Yashaswini, a resident of Electronics City and a data entry operator at a stamp office, was struck by a lorry. The impact left her with critical injuries. Passersby rushed her to a nearby hospital, where she was declared brought dead.

“The tipper lorry sped away from the spot immediately after the collision. We are currently scanning CCTV footage from the surrounding areas and the route toward Sarjapur to identify the vehicle and the driver,” a senior traffic police officer said.

Whitefield traffic police registered a case under IPC sections 304A (causing death by negligence) and 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) along with relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Police have seized the lorry and launched a search to trace the absconding driver.

by hospital.

Somanna succumbed to his injuries late Wednesday night. Praveen died early Thursday morning.

Kamakshipalya traffic police visited the spot and seized both vehicles.

A case of causing death by negligence and rash driving

has been registered.

Investigation is on to determine if speeding or poor lighting on the stretch led to the collision.



The vehicles which met with an accident near Mantralayam.

Eight from K'taka killed in AP

RAICHUR/HYDERABAD, DHNS: Eight people, including five women, from Karnataka died after a pick-up vehicle they were traveling in collided with a lorry in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Thursday.

Nine others sustained injuries and were hospitalised.

Police have identified the victims as residents of Udayi village, Tarikere taluk, Chikmagalur district.

The pick-up vehicle was carrying devotees to the Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt at Mantralayam when it collided head-on with a ready-mix concrete lorry on National Highway 167 near Chilakaladona village in Mantralayam mandal.

Twenty-one people were in the vehicle at the time of the crash. While five people died on the spot, three others succumbed to their injuries later. Among the deceased is a three-year-old girl.

Preliminary police investigation suggested the Bolero pick-up vehicle's driver slept behind the wheel, veering the vehicle towards oncoming traffic across the divider. The lorry involved in the accident was travelling from Bidar to Tumakuru.

PIL seeks ban on tiger safari in notified critical tiger habitats

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered notices to state government, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and others in a PIL petition, seeking a ban on tiger safari activities within the notified Critical Tiger Habitats (CTH) across the state.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha adjourned the hearing to July 7, while directing the authorities to file an affidavit setting out the areas/zones earmarked for tiger safari activities in the state.

The petition was filed by V Ravindra Kumar, an advocate from Mysuru, challenging the February 21, 2026, order issued by the PCCF (Wildlife),

permitting recommencement of tiger safari activities at 50% capacity across the state.

The order was based on the recommendation of a technical committee. The government had banned the safari on November 7, 2025, following a series of deadly tiger attacks.

According to the petitioner, the order recommending the safari activities was issued following pressure by local MLAs and resort lobbies.

He also stated that such permission is against the Supreme Court orders in the Godavarma Thirumulpad case. He further pointed out that the Supreme Court held that safaris can only be established on 'non-forest land' or 'degraded forest land' in buffer areas.

The state's decision to use existing tracks deep within the primary evergreen/deciduous forests of the core zone is a wilful and deliberate defiance of the Supreme Court order, the petitioner said.

“The state's order treats the tiger habitat as a ‘Profit Centre.’ The main relief is sought to uphold the constitutional duty of the state under Article 48A and the fundamental duty of citizens under Article 51A(g) to protect and improve the natural environment,” the petitioner said.

The petition sought direction to initiate an inquiry against the technical committee, which recommended recommencing safari activities.

The petitioner further sought directions to ensure all such safari activities are moved to non-forest land in buffer areas as per the court directions in the Godavarma case.



SPACE REIMAGINED

Transforming overlooked urban spaces into vibrant public zones, Intel Corporation has revitalised the area beneath the Bellandur flyover on the Outer Ring Road through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. The newly beautified underpass was inaugurated by Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Additional Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation. PHOTO: BENGALURU EAST CORPORATION

KSRTC redevelops parking facility for buses at Majestic

► BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has redeveloped the parking area at Terminal-1 of the Kempegowda Bus Station at Majestic.

Built at a cost of Rs 3.29 crore, the facility was inaugurated by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Thursday.

Completed all jobs for Bengaluru civic elections, state tells SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Karnataka government has told the Supreme Court that it has completed all its responsibilities, including publishing final ward reservation notifications without affecting the election process for five city corporations of greater Bengaluru Area.

On January 12, the Supreme Court had directed the government to complete the polls in five municipal corporations in greater Bengaluru area by June 30, 2026.

The BBMP's previous term expired on September 10, 2020.

The court had also told it to finish publishing the ward wise reservation list by February 20, 2026, saying no further time would be granted for the purpose.

In an affidavit, the state government said the delay of 15

days happened in publishing final ward reservation notifications, when compared to the deadline of February 20, 2026 provided by the apex court, but it was due to administrative reasons and did not in any way affect the election process to the corporations in greater Bengaluru area.

“According to schedule of activities provided in the circular, final publication of ward wise electoral roll is to be completed on March 16, 2026. Since the state election commission does not require reservation list of wards till final publication of ward-wise electoral rolls, the delay in publishing ward-wise reservation has not affected election process in any manner,” it said.

In its previous status report of January 9, 2026, the state government requested the court to provide further time limit up to February 20, 2026, for publishing final notifications of ward-wise reservation of the five corporations.

On January 12, 2026, the court granted time up to February 20, 2026 for publication of final ward-wise reservation.

“The scrutiny committee for ward-wise reservation of the five corporations in greater Bengaluru area under the chairmanship of the additional chief secretary, urban development department verified all suggestions and objections received in its meeting held on February 17, and submitted its recommendation to the state government,” it said.

After obtaining approval of the state government, separate notifications declaring final reservations for wards of five city corporations were published on March 7, it said.

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Islamic scholars slam Cong on 'betrayal', warn of shifting Muslim vote bank

The group also plans to meet AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal to press their single-point agenda of a Cabinet rejoin on Friday.

The MLAs are, however, unlikely to meet Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who is occupied with the ongoing Parliament session.

"The perception that Muslims have no option other than Congress is entirely incorrect," the Ulama warned, adding that they are now convening internal meetings to deliberate on suitable steps to safeguard the dignity of the community, signaling a potential shift in the state's traditional political equations as they wait for a response from the AICC leadership.

"The FDCA-K is trying to tarnish our image," he charged.

The cargo ship 'MSG' at Karwar port on Thursday.

jumbos. The public have been restricted from visiting the temporary elephant camp at Bikkodu."

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Yana caves are now Geoheritage Site of National Importance

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has declared Yana caves in Uttara Kannada as a Geoheritage Site of National Importance on the occasion of 176th GSI Foundation Day.

Yana rocks, nestled in the Western Ghats, represent a remarkable example of landscape evolution shaped by tectonics, weathering and karst processes. The striking rock masses were formed approximately 2,700 million years ago (Ma) and are composed of Precambrian dolomitic limestone.

The area hosts 61 distinct karst landforms of which Bhairaveshwara Shikhara (-120 m) and Mohini Shikhara (-90 m) are the most dominant peaks. These two famous paired massive black monoliths are also linked with mythological narratives and well-known for pilgrimage, the order read.

Water levels in Karnataka's 14 reservoirs drop to 36%

'Enough to meet drinking water needs in summer'

PAVAN KUMAR H HUBBALLI, DHNS

The current water levels in 14 reservoirs of Karnataka is just 36%, which is less than the level on the same day last year.

As on April 16, 2026, the 14 major reservoirs held 322 tmcft of water. The total storage capacity is 895 tmcft of water. Last year the reservoirs had 330 tmcft of water.

More worrying is that the 11 reservoirs supplying drinking water hold less water than they did last year. The four reservoirs in the Cauvery basin

have just 53.09 tmcft of water compared to 57.52 tmcft last year. The out flow from these reservoir is far higher than the inflow. KRS, Harangi, Hemavathi and Kabini cumulatively releasing 5,240 cusecs of water daily, while its inflow is just 130 cusec per day.

Though the six reservoirs in Krishna basin has (nearly 134 tmcft of water) more water than the previous year, however, senior officials fear that the region can still face drinking water crises due to higher rate of evaporation. Almatti, the largest multipurpose reservoir in state, has 33.77 tmcft



The water level in Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam in Mandya district stood at 100.96 on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

of water nearly five tmcft more water than last year.

Though Tungabhadra reservoir has nearly 14 tmcft of water, the government has decided not to release water for second crop as they are repairing crest gates of the dam. The outflow from this reservoir is 4,232 cusecs.

Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources

Department, says that there is no need to worry as they have calculated the requirement of drinking water till the advent of monsoon and managing the levels accordingly.

The water level of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam, in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya district, depleted to below 100 feet on April 16.

Saleem's tenure as DG&IGP extended till 2027

BENGALURU, DHNS

The tenure of M A Saleem, head of state police, was on Thursday extended till 2027. The government order said Saleem, Director General & Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) and Head of Police Force (HoPF), will remain in post till Aug 29, 2027.

"In compliance to judgment dated: 22.09.2006 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in (Prakash Singh Vs Union of India & others) Dr M A SALEEM, IPS,

Director General and Inspector General of Police (Head of Police Force), Karnataka, Bengaluru is continued as Director General and Inspector General of Police (Head of Police Force), Karnataka, Bengaluru till 29-08-2027 or until further orders, whichever is



M A Saleem.

earlier," the order said. Saleem, in May 2025, was placed under concurrent charge as DG&IGP after Alok Mohan's term ended. The government formalised his appointment in August.

A 1993-batch officer, Saleem, in his 3-decade-long career served in 26 different posts, most recently as DGP, Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Saleem, born on June 25, 1966, hails from Chikkabanavara, a once-sleepy village in northern Bengaluru. He holds postgraduate degrees in commerce and police management.

He is recognised for solving Bengaluru's traffic issues, as Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East), then as Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic & Security) and later as Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

Electricity use shooting up in Jan itself in recent years

Causes: Rise in use of IP sets, more AC utilisation early on

SNEHA RAMESH BENGALURU, DHNS

Power consumption, which used to start increasing in March due to summer every year, is showing an upward trend in January itself in recent years.

From December 2025 to January 2026, power consumption in Bescom jurisdiction rose by nearly 10%, the biggest month-on-month increase in the 2025-2026 period.

In December, consumption stood at 3,211 MUs and increased to 3,551 MUs in January, data reviewed by DH shows. A Bescom official said rising temperatures were increasing power consumption.

"Earlier, in Bengaluru, we would see high temperatures only by March. However, with changing weather patterns, we see temperatures increasing in January itself. So, there is a rise in power consumption starting

POWER CONSUMPTION IN BESCOM LIMITS

• April 2025	3,853.42
• May 2025	3,561.90
• June 2025	3,090.78
• July 2025	3,042.49
• Aug 2025	3,312.14
• Sep 2025	2,837.87
• Oct 2025	2,880.51
• Nov 2025	2,957.93
• Dec 2025	3,211.80
• Jan 2026	3,551.62
• Feb 2026	3,617.05
• Mar 2026	3,547.41

*All figures in million units

around the second week of January," a senior Bescom official said.

Additionally, area under cultivation has increased in some rural parts covered by Bescom, resulting in greater use of pumpsets, especially in January.

"Winter crops and many horticulture crops need more water in January. With increased area of cultivation, electricity consumption by

irrigation pumpsets also goes up," another Bescom official explained.

The rise in living standards leading to increased use of air-conditioners (ACs) and other gadgets has resulted in such an increase in urban areas.

"The number of houses with AC and number of ACs per house have both increased. As heat rises, the number of hours of electricity use goes up from January itself. Many people who usually use ACs only between 11 am and 3 pm are starting to use them from 9 am, leading to increased power consumption," a senior Bescom official said.

March and April continue to show high consumption compared to other months.

The consumption starts increasing in January, peaks in April and tends to decline significantly by May.

"Once pre-monsoon showers start, temperatures begin to come down. Both urban and rural areas see a drop since temperatures start coming down in May," the official said.

Over the years, the state's power consumption has increased drastically, with residential consumption alone increasing by nearly 28% in last six years.

Mercury soars to 44.6 degrees Celsius in Bidar village

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Chintaki village in Bidar district recorded a maximum temperature of 44.6 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, according to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

KSNDMC stated in a press release that many places of Kalaburagi, Raichur, Bidar and Vijayapura districts, a few places of Yadgir and Bagalkot districts, isolated places of Belagavi, Ballari, Gadag, Koppal, Chitradurga and Vijayanagara districts recorded maximum temperature between 42 degrees Celsius to 44.6 degrees Celsius on April 16.

They also stated that heat wave conditions likely to prevail over North Interior Karnataka for the next three days, hot and humid conditions over Coastal Karnataka

for the next five days.

Highest in country

Aurad village in Kalaburagi taluk and Akola (Vidarbha region of Maharashtra) had recorded a temperature of 44 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, highest in country.

India meteorological department scientist Lata Sridhar said this was also the highest temperature recorded till April 15 during summer over the last 16 years. The state had witnessed 44.01 degrees Celsius temperature on April 15, 2010. A yellow alert has been issued for Kalaburagi, Bidar, Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Belagavi districts from April 15 to 17 as north interior Karnataka faces intense heatwave, with temperatures expected to hover around 42 and 44 degrees Celsius.



Green nets installed to protect motorists from scorching sun at a junction in Kalaburagi. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Nod for 42-acre IIMB campus near Bannerghatta park

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) received approval for its plan to build infrastructure on a 42-acre 14 gunta project (phase 1) in eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Bannerghatta national park (BNP), with the standing committee of the State Board for Wildlife recommending the project on Thursday.

The first phase involves construction of new facilities for students at Mahanthalingapura of Jigani hobli, Anekal taluk, Bengaluru Urban district.

While the project does not involve diversion of forest land, it comes at a time when the Supreme Court is considering a scathing report by the Central Empowered Committee,

which said the shrinking of BNP ESZ violated rules and expressed concern over built-up areas.

To a question, officials in the forest department said the project was coming up on private land and did not impact forests.

The proposed institute is located 303 metres away from BNP boundary.

Since it involves a built-up area of over 20,000 sqm, it will now be placed before National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for final clearance, an official said.

The committee also looked into two proposals by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for widening two stretches of NH-73 inside Pushpagiri wildlife sanctuary

2,877-acre protected area in Kalaburagi district

The State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) has approved a proposal by the forest department to declare a 2,877-acre forest in Chitrapur taluk of Kalaburagi district as a protected area.

The Kalaburagi division has selected the 2,877-acre undisturbed area in a forest block spread over

6,410 acres. The division officials had proposed it as a leopard conservation reserve in Karnataka.

However, following advice by senior officials, a more inclusive approach was adopted. "The area is home to diverse fauna. It was decided not to limit conservation to a single species," an official said.

and Kudremukh national park. Sources said the committee was apprised of the need for widening due to demand from people's representatives.

"While more information has been sought, the project is likely to be recommended. It will be placed before NBWL," the sources added.

ATREE, ISRO join hands to map grasslands

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a move towards conservation of India's grasslands and streamlining land management, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) have joined hands to boost research, data and knowledge exchange.

ISRO's Space Applications Centre and ATREE signed an MoU on Thursday to bring together SAC-ISRO's expertise in geospatial mapping and ATREE's research.

edly in the past. In December 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the B S Yediyurappa-led BJP government directed banks to stop considering Cibil scores in view of farmers' complaints.

While welcoming the GCS, Melukote MLA Darshan Puttannaiah stressed on the need to address a larger problem troubling farmers: low income.

"Perhaps, the GCS won't be as stringent as Cibil. But we're trying to find solutions to symptomatic issues. We need to take 50-60 steps back," Darshan said. "The core issue isn't that of Cibil scores. The core issue is about how much farmers are getting paid, how much money they're making and whether or not they get the price they deserve for what they grow," he said.

FOR KALABURAGI CAULDRON



A worker arranges water coolers for sale in front of a super market in Kalaburagi, a city known for its harsh summers, on Thursday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

KPCL pushes for Varahi power project; Wildlife Board briefed

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI BENGALURU, DHNS

The widespread opposition to the pumped storage project in the Sharavathi valley of the Western Ghats notwithstanding, the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) on Thursday pushed for a similar project, this time in the core area of Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary.

The KPCL's proposal to conduct a survey and investigation of the area was discussed during the standing committee of the State Board for Wildlife.

The power authority sought permission to drill a total of 21 boreholes, including 17 in the Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary and to build a new walking path to reach the interior areas where the boreholes are to be drilled. The Deputy Conservator of Forests of Kudremukh Wildlife Division, in his report accompanying the proposal, said the 2500 MW project requires a total of 355.38 acres

(143.82 hectares) of land, which includes forest and non-forest land spread over Udipi and Shivamogga districts.

"The area is part of the Western Ghats. The region receives average annual rainfall of 8000 mm," the report said.

The board was briefed about the sensitivity of the project, with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) noting that the project can be considered with a condition that there is no provision to construct a new road.

Further, the Board was informed that, considering that the project comprises "invasive activities", KPCL has to get approval for the survey and investigation from the National Board of Wildlife.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, who chairs the standing committee, noted that the proposal is only for exploration.

"It was recommended earlier. However, due to some reason, they needed to renew the approval," he said.

The renewal became a necessity after THDC, a Mini Ratna company that was assigned the project earlier, could not take up the project.

As per the rules, a change in the implementing company (user agency) requires a fresh approval for the project.

Sources said the proposal is likely to be deferred.

Similarities with the Sharavathi project

The Varahi proposal comes on the back of the 2000 MW project in the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque sanctuary, which has seen intense opposition from the people in Uttara Kannada and Shivamogga districts.

Similar to the Sharavathi river, the Varahi river already has a power project. The Varahi HE Project generates 460 MW of power. The new pumped storage environment involves destruction and disturbance to forests in the highly critical area of the Western Ghats.

BEYOND CIBIL

Karnataka backs new credit score for rural lending

BHARATH JOSHI BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has backed the use of the Grameen Credit Score (GCS) as a new yardstick for bank loans to rural borrowers, recasting how women and farmers are assessed for their repayment capacity.

Announced in the 2025-26 Union Budget, the GCS is being developed by public sector banks for the credit needs of Self-Help Groups (SHG) and people in rural areas.

This is being positioned as an alternative to the 'stringent' Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd, or Cibil, score. The Cibil score is a summary of a consumer's credit history based on past credit behavior, such as borrowing and repayment habits.



The adoption of GCS in Karnataka was discussed in a recent State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting.

"Guidelines for the Grameen Credit Score are being developed by individual banks in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development," Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Development Commissioner Uma Mahadevan said.

According to Union Minister of State for Rural Development Dr

Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, the current scoring mechanism used by Credit Information Companies (CIC) is, by design, generic to all individual borrowers with no specific consideration for the rural sector.

Mahadevan made a similar point: "While Cibil is for those who're already financially active, GCS is meant to cater to SHGs, joint liability groups (JLG) and other rural sections, keeping in mind their financial discipline, availability of assets and payment of bills digitally."

Lending to the farm sector makes up the largest share of credit in Karnataka. Agricultural loans amounting to Rs 2.18 lakh crore are outstanding in the state, according to the latest available data.

However, the use of Cibil scores for farmers has been flagged repeat-

Stagnant wages, simmering unrest

Violent protests by factory workers in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, and other North Indian cities signal severe working-class discontent. What unfolded in Noida was more than a workers' agitation; it was a breakdown of law and order – a reasonable call for revision of wages that soon spiralled into vandalism and arson. It was not an isolated incident. Police and workers clashed in Faridabad and Manesar in Haryana. Earlier, workers staged protests in Surat in Gujarat. In Rajasthan, the Bhiwadi industrial area witnessed a workers' stir. Workers staged similar protests in multiple locations across the northern states, leading to arrests and the registration of cases.

These disruptions reflect deepening worker unrest, fuelled by paltry wages that are increasingly inadequate to meet the cost of living. In Noida, workers had been raising demands for higher wages for many months. Their protest escalated when the Haryana government raised the minimum wages of unskilled workers, from Rs 11,275 to Rs 15,220 per month. As the workers in Noida demanded a minimum monthly salary of Rs 20,000, domestic workers joined the agitation. Protesters noted that salaries of Rs 8,000-9,000 a month were grossly insufficient to ensure basic standards of living. The recent shortage of LPG, triggered by the conflict in West Asia, has hit many of them hard. Most workers lack secure wages as they enter employment without a contract. Concerns have been raised over the absence of payslips, guaranteed weekly holidays, and incentives such as a provident fund. Companies scaling down production following the war in Iran have further complicated the situation.

The UP government set up a high-level committee to resolve the workers' issues and announced a hike in minimum wages of about 20%, effective April 1. This may only have assuaged the workers for the time being. The response has been strikingly underwhelming, with contractual employees in Noida and Faridabad staying off work, maintaining that the hikes proposed by the two state governments fall well short of meeting their expenses. Credible grievances such as poor wages and difficult working conditions have found a common expression of agitation. In a climate of uncertainty and mistrust, it is up to the governments to bring reason and calm to the negotiation table. The immediate relief of wage hikes is important, but it needs to be complemented with a real intent to frame worker-friendly policies. With trade unions reiterating plans to raise the pitch of protests, the governments must switch modes from damage control to meaningful engagement and long-term reform.

Workers' protests underscore the need for solutions that rebuild trust through long-term reforms

Heat stress: Action beyond ad hocism

The summer of 2026 is shaping up to be one of the most gruelling Karnataka has faced in recent memory, underlining the growing intensity of climate variability across the state. Data from the India Meteorological Department points to a prolonged and uneven heatwave, with North Karnataka bearing the brunt. This is not the hottest summer on record. That distinction belongs to 2016, when Bengaluru and much of the state experienced an unusually high number of extreme heat days. Districts such as Kalaburagi, Raichur, and Vijayapura have already seen temperatures soar above 40°C, with Kalaburagi reaching 42°C. Heatwave alerts across Bidar, Ballari, and Koppal suggest that this is not a passing phase but a sustained climatic stress. Even Bengaluru, once insulated by its elevation, has recorded unusual spikes above 35°C. This is exacerbated by the urban heat island effect, where rapid concretisation and shrinking green cover trap heat. Compounding the discomfort are warmer nights that offer little respite, signalling a deeper shift in weather patterns.

The most immediate consequence is the looming water crisis. With nearly 207 taluks flagged as vulnerable, districts such as Uttara Kannada, Belagavi, and Tumakuru are already witnessing acute shortages. At the same time, rising temperatures are driving up electricity demand, placing immense pressure on the power grid as cooling needs surge. Agriculture is under strain, with crops such as paddy, sugarcane, and wheat facing heat stress and moisture deficits, threatening both yields and farmer incomes. Public health risks are rising, with heat exhaustion compounded by seasonal outbreaks of gastroenteritis and other water-borne diseases. The dry conditions also heighten the risk of forest fires.

Citizens, therefore, must adapt swiftly. Avoiding exposure during peak afternoon hours, ensuring adequate hydration, and maintaining strict food and water hygiene are basic yet critical steps. Residents must rethink water consumption, minimise wastage, and embrace conservation. However, the burden cannot rest solely on individuals. The government must move beyond ad hoc responses. A comprehensive heat action plan, tailored district-wise, is essential. This includes expanding early warning systems, ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water, and preparing hospitals for seasonal disease outbreaks. Power utilities must be equipped to manage peak demand without outages, while long-term urban planning must address heat island effects through increased tree cover. These are not distant policy ideals but immediate necessities, as recurring summers of this intensity are fast becoming the norm rather than the exception. If 2016 was a warning, 2026 is a reminder that the state has not learned enough.

Water scarcity and power strain signal Karnataka's intensifying summer, demanding a robust heat plan

COMMENT

THE NUMBERS COUNT

Women's quota: Real reform or political leverage?

By fast-tracking women's reservation, the Modi government frames reform while pursuing electoral advantage

BHARAT BHUSHAN

The Narendra Modi government is proposing an early debut for the implementation of women's reservation — in 2029 instead of 2034 as planned — by convening a special session of the Lok Sabha.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Constitutional Amendment, 2023), providing for a 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, was passed unanimously by Parliament. However, the Modi government now wants to take sole credit, suggesting that the Opposition does not favour its early implementation. The Opposition, however, only wants the latest census (delayed from 2021) to be completed before delimitation to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha.

That the Modi government wants to leverage early implementation for immediate electoral purposes is also clear. The Opposition wanted the implementation to be discussed after April 29, when polling for the Assembly elections will be over. The government, however, wants to proceed before polling to attract women voters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

The early implementation of women's reservation may reflect a political necessity for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following the setback of 2024, when it fell short of a simple majority, dropping from over 300-plus seats in 2019 to 240. The BJP hopes that 33% reservation of seats for women will consolidate their support to offset other losses. The early implementation of women's reservation is then damage control packaged as empowerment of women. Implementing the Bill is not only a matter of policy; it also allows Modi to occupy the high moral ground and project himself as the architect of historic change, refurbishing his prime ministerial legacy.

Significantly, the implementation of women's reservation is tied to the delimitations of constituencies, increasing the Lok Sabha seats to 850. One-third of these, or about 281-283 seats, will be reserved for women. The determination of new constituencies, however, will be based on population, and that requires detailed data. Earlier, delimitation was to be done after the 2021 Census (belatedly underway now)

was completed. Now, it seems, delimitation will be carried out based on the outdated 2011 Census.

The use of outdated census data has been criticised by the southern states, who fear that the delimitation exercise will lock political representation to old and outdated demographic patterns that favour the northern states because of their historically higher fertility rates and population growth. These are also the states where the BJP predominates. The southern states, which have experienced slower population growth because of better women's education and successful family planning, would see fewer new seats compared to the north.



There will be an additional political advantage to the BJP in the north, where its major challengers are caste-based parties. Seat expansion and women's reservation will break the male-dominated caste hierarchies of these parties. Forcing patriarchal and dynastic parties to field women leaders from OBCs, Dalits, and the minority community could fragment their traditional caste-based vote banks.

The South resists

Modi has assured southern states that Lok Sabha seats will be increased proportionately so that they are not penalised for their demographic discipline. However, southern leaders have argued that even with the expansion of seats, northern states will gain disproportionately and could skew political power further in favour of the north and further dilute the political influence of the south. In any case, the BJP's gains in the south are unlikely to be significant because of its weak base, and women's reservation alone is not likely to overturn regional loyalties. However, the BJP hopes that the electoral impact of women's reservation will help it regain clear majorities in Uttar Pradesh and

Bihar, where electoral margins are decisive.

Another aspect of women's reservation which may upset the Opposition is the provision for rotation of the reserved seats. The power of the caste-based and regional parties rests on long-held seats, local power structures, and continuity of dynastic politics. Fielding women candidates could upset power equations unless political dynasties adapt by promoting the daughters, wives, sisters, or daughters-in-law of male incumbents from the reserved seats.

The BJP may be better placed to take advantage in such a scenario, as the party already has organised women's wings and considerable organisational depth. It can present the reservation as a continuation of its women-centric welfare schemes, such as Ujjwala and Beti Bachao. Its multi-state presence also allows the BJP to accommodate influential displaced candidates by moving them to the Rajya Sabha – something the regional parties cannot do as easily.

It remains an open question, though, whether using old census data to gerrymander constituencies will help the BJP. Past results are mixed. In 2023, the Election Commission of India conducted delimitation of Assembly constituencies based on the 2001 Census data in Assam. In the redrawing of constituencies, Muslim majority seats were reduced from about 35 to about 20. Critics claimed that this was aimed at reducing the influence of minority voters and consolidating the BJP's position in Hindu-majority areas. The results of this exercise will be reflected in the ongoing Assam election results.

The delimitation of constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir in 2022 attracted widespread criticism for the same reason. Yet its electoral benefits for the BJP were mixed. Its overall electoral advantage was limited, helping the party to consolidate in Jammu but bringing no gains in the Valley.

The best-case scenario of the women's reservation exercise for Modi would be that the BJP regains majority in 2029, his stature is legitimised once again, and implementing women's reservation is seen as a historic reform and not opportunism. However, it may also backfire if the Opposition successfully presents it as a Hindi-belt power grab and opportunistic damage control by a weakened leader – a political gimmick and a tactical ploy to stay relevant. The BJP may gain in the North Indian states, but it may continue facing resistance in the south, leading to internal turbulence.

(The writer is a Delhi-based journalist)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Learning, the *san* way

I hope I have imbibed some of the admirable traits of the Japanese

VENKATESWARAN K

Recently, I wished an ex-colleague a Happy New Year, and he messaged me back: “Thanks, Venkat-*san*.” That simple suffix sent me down memory lane, reminding me of my time as a project manager for a Japanese client. In their culture, *san* is more than just a title; it is a mark of deep-seated respect.

As many of us are aware, the Japanese are incredibly process-oriented and unyielding about timelines. Coming from an Indian work culture, I'll admit I had a tough time keeping pace. I vividly remember a meeting where my Japanese counterparts asked for the upcoming schedule. I presented our

plan confidently, only to be met with a question that completely baffled me: “Where is the backup plan?”

I almost retorted that back home, we are lucky to have a primary plan, let alone a backup—but I bit my tongue; gave a sheepish nod; and promised to have one ready.

This meticulousness extended to every facet of the project. They were particularly insistent that any reported issue wasn't just solved but that its root cause was unearthed so it would never recur. My team spent countless hours documenting “Five Whys” analyses for every single issue. By the end of the project, we had become so proficient that the issue reports practically vanished—perhaps because we had mastered the craft, or perhaps because the team just dreaded the paperwork!

One incident, however, stays with me most vividly. We had a customer meeting scheduled for 9:00 am in Japan. At 8:45 am, we received a call: the

client was caught in traffic and would be fifteen minutes late. They arrived at 9:15 am sharp. As they entered, they performed a deep bow—a *saikerei*—to show their sincere regret for the delay, despite having warned us in advance. Coming from a culture where punctuality is often viewed more flexibly, I was deeply moved by the reverence they showed for our time.

During that same meeting, our hosts spoke in English, but as we moved into critical business details, they switched to Japanese. They preferred the precision of their native tongue to ensure nothing was misconstrued—a stark contrast to the hesitation, or even mortification, some of us feel when speaking our mother tongue in a professional setting.

It has been a long time since that project concluded. I have since moved on to other roles, but I like to believe that I have hopefully carried with me some of those admirable traits of the Japanese *san*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Blatant violation of model code yet again

I refer to your editorial ‘Quota push masks federal power shift’ (Apr 16). It lays bare the ulterior motive of the government in hurriedly attempting to pass amendments to the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, and effect a delimitation of electoral constituencies. The Women's Reservation Bill, passed in 2023, was to be implemented after the next population census in 2029. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's insistence on implementing these changes right now—describing the move as a ‘historic step’ and seeking

the support of all political parties—smacks of an attempt to take undue advantage in two states with a significant women voters base that are going to the polls this month. It is obvious that the government has its own axe to grind in the name of women's reservation. The Opposition parties must handle the situation with the caution it deserves and call out the government in the interest of parliamentary democracy and India's federal structure.

M Basavaraj, Davanagere

velopment. This should be a priority, especially with the instability in West Asia and the constant threat of oil price fluctuations.

Sanjay N, Bengaluru

Charade of impeachment

Impeachment always involves high-profile individuals, and the present case of Justice Yashwant Varma is no different, and in such cases, even the concept of criminality appears to get diluted. It is about time the charade of an impeachment provision in our constitution

was done away with. Unless all are treated as common criminals, nothing will ever change. It is inexplicable why the inquiry panel could not ascertain who kept such a huge amount of cash in Justice Varma's house (Cash scandal: No closure in resignation, Apr 15).

HR Babu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: letters@deccanherald.co.in (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The Congress divided Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in a fashion worse than how the British carried out the Partition of India and Pakistan.

Tejasvi Surya, BJP MP



I'm prone to hyperbole.

Ty Burrell

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

The costs of a quick fix

A poorly evidenced proposal for immunocontraception ignores deeper causes of human-elephant interactions

GANA KEDLAYA

Karnataka's Forest Minister, Eshwar Khandre, recently suggested sterilising certain wildlife species (big cats, elephants) as a key solution to the growing problem of human-wildlife interactions in the state.

The proposal to use immunocontraception, a temporary vaccination preventing females from breeding for a few years, was put forward in West Bengal in 2014, but was later opposed by the Supreme Court. One approval has been given to sterilise leopards in Maharashtra. Many states, including Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, are planning to adopt the method and await approvals.

The proposal's main justification is a supposed rise in elephant numbers. Yet a DNA-based study by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in 2025 shows a decline: India's wild elephant population dropped to 22,446 from 29,964 in 2017. Also, no conclusive evidence shows that population growth alone drives more human-elephant interactions. This weakens the rationale for immunocontraception as the primary strategy.

While the minister has insisted on debating the issue with the public and experts before the trial, this could be the right time to seek some clarity. This is not the first time Karnataka has sought such approval. In 2016, in Kodagu, a proposal was pitched with initial funding for the experiment stated as approved by the then Chief Conservator of Forest, Kodagu, Manoj Kumar. Later, in 2018, there was a demand to sterilise 45 elephants in Sakleshpur. A forest official stated the department would conduct immunocontraception on 200 camp elephants before extending the programme to the wild.

Has this been tried on captive elephants? No information is available. Delivering vaccines in dense, uneven terrain is a major challenge. How will this be addressed? How will females be identified for vaccination? Will age be considered, or will only permanent residents be considered on certain coffee estates? Will sterilised females be radio-collared? Most radio collars have lasted less than a year, sometimes only a few months, as seen in Kodagu. How will this be addressed?

The immunocontraception approach is a temporary fix. It works for two to three years per female and requires repeat intervention (booster shots). While it may be a solution for herds living as residents on farmland, as documented in coffee estates in Karnataka, the central concern remains: it does not address the under-

lying causes of conflict.

Even if some females are sterilised, it will not stop wild elephants from moving across fragmented or human-dominated landscapes. Most interactions are caused by males or male herds. This means interactions will continue, and breeding males will likely be captured to fill more rescue centres. The scientists behind the idea say it will take several years to yield long-term results.

Mixed signals

Earlier this year, while pitching this trial, a state forest official cited a similar programme in Thailand as a positive example. However, Thailand first ran a year-long trial with seven domesticated elephants, and in 2026, used the same approach on three wild elephants. This is not a success story; it remains a pilot project with unproven impact in the wild. There is information from other countries, but there are no studies on Asian elephants that address this method or its biological and physiological effects. Nor is there evidence on how it could alter herd dynamics, social bonds, or behaviour; especially since females will still attract males in *musth*.

In 2022, the WII received funds to study immune-contraceptive measures for population management of four species. However, the same organisation also promoted elephant translocation as a promising mitigation measure in 2023, based on insights from radio-collaring and the translocation of 10 wild elephants in Kodagu.

In a published scientific technical report, the scientists stated, “Translocation of Asian elephants has emerged as a valuable conservation strategy. It offers an effective means of reducing conflicts, restoring ecological balance, and ensuring the long-term survival of the species.” In 2025, in another peer-reviewed paper proposing an early warning system with satellite telemetry and mass communication as a solution in Kodagu, the team states that elephant translocation harms wild elephants' health and social structures, and increases human-wildlife conflicts. The same organisations have also been proponents of immunocontraception.

This expensive, temporary fix diverts resources and attention from long-term solutions: timely compensation, community-driven management, robust support for forest personnel, and real efforts to address habitat loss, unchecked development, systemic bureaucratic corruption, and the commodification of research assessments.

Most importantly, when wild management strategies include ecological diversity and area-specific socio-political issues? Why do we still use one-size-fits-all approaches across landscapes with diverse ecologies, terrains, and cultures to address human-elephant interactions?

(The writer is an environment journalist)

War, oil, and poverty: Why India needs an Atmanirbhar Bharat 2.0

D JEEVAN KUMAR

The reverberations of distant wars are rarely confined to battlefields. As the latest UNDP assessment makes clear (*Military Escalation in the Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia and the Pacific*, April 14), the prolonged conflict in West Asia is already shaping human development outcomes across Asia, including India. What appears as a geopolitical crisis is, in reality, a deeply economic and social one, transmitted through energy prices, food systems, and fragile livelihoods. For India, the implications are sobering: a reminder that development gains remain vulnerable to external shocks and that true self-reliance must go far beyond rhetoric. The UNDP's analysis identifies energy prices as the principal channel through which the crisis is affecting developing economies. For a country like India, which imports close to 90% of its crude oil requirements, this dependence is not merely a macroeconomic statistic; it is a structural vulnerability. Rising oil prices cascade

through the economy, increasing transport costs, raising food prices, and squeezing household budgets. The poor, who spend a disproportionately large share of their income on food and basic services, bear the brunt of these increases. Under adverse scenarios, up to 2.5 million additional Indians could be pushed into poverty, while even modest declines in human development indicators risk reversing years of progress. These numbers may appear small in proportional terms, but in absolute terms they represent millions of disrupted lives. The report also highlights indirect risks: disruptions in fertiliser supply affecting agricultural output and potential declines in remittances from the Gulf, which account for a substantial share of household incomes in many Indian states. India's exposure is therefore multi-layered. It is not just about crude oil imports; it is about the embeddedness of imported energy in agriculture, industry, and everyday consumption. It is about the dependence of rural livelihoods on affordable inputs and the reliance of urban economies on

mobility. And it is about the vulnerability of migrant households whose incomes depend on economic stability in West Asia. The immediate policy response is necessarily pragmatic. Diversification of energy sources, expansion of strategic petroleum reserves, and targeted relief to vulnerable households are essential to cushion the shock. Importantly, as the UNDP suggests, such relief should be targeted rather than universal. Broad subsidies, while politically attractive, impose significant fiscal burdens and often fail to reach those most in need. Yet, to focus only on short-term mitigation is to miss the larger lesson. The crisis underscores the urgency of structural transformation. India's development trajectory must be reoriented towards reducing its deep dependence on imported fossil fuels. This calls for an accelerated transition to renewable energy—not merely as a climate imperative, but as a development strategy. Large-scale solar and wind projects are important, but they must be complemented by decentralised systems: rooftop solar,

village-level microgrids, and community-based energy solutions. Such systems not only reduce import dependence but also enhance resilience, particularly in rural areas. Equally important is the need to rethink mobility. India's transport sector remains heavily oil-dependent. Expanding electric public transport, strengthening rail networks, and promoting non-motorised mobility can significantly reduce oil consumption while improving urban liveability. Agriculture, too, must be part of the transition. The UNDP's emphasis on fertiliser disruptions highlights a critical vulnerability. Reducing chemical input dependence through agro-ecological practices, improving nutrient efficiency, and strengthening domestic production can help insulate farmers from global shocks. At a deeper level, the crisis invites a rethinking of the very idea of development. It is here that a Gandhian perspective offers valuable insights. Gandhi's emphasis on self-reliance, simplicity, and decentralisation is often dismissed as idealistic. Yet, in

an era of global volatility, these ideas acquire renewed relevance. A Gandhian approach to development does not imply isolation from the global economy. Rather, it advocates resilience through local capability. "Production by the masses", in today's context, can be reinterpreted as decentralised production systems, local energy generation, and community-based economies. Such an approach reduces vulnerability to external shocks while enhancing employment and social cohesion. Equally significant is Gandhi's principle of ethical restraint. Modern development has been driven by ever-expanding consumption, much of it energy-intensive. A shift towards more sustainable patterns of consumption—what might be termed "mindful development"—can reduce pressure on both the environment and external resources. The idea of *antyodaya*, or the welfare of the last person, provides a powerful normative framework. The UNDP's findings, in effect, echo Gandhi's talisman: policy must

be judged by its impact on the most vulnerable. When a war thousands of kilometres away can push millions into poverty, it is a sign that systems are neither equitable nor resilient. An Atmanirbhar Bharat 2.0 must therefore move beyond the narrow confines of industrial self-sufficiency. It must encompass energy sovereignty, decentralised resilience, and social protection. It must integrate modern technology with traditional knowledge, large-scale infrastructure with local systems, and economic growth with ecological sustainability. The UNDP report is a warning, but it is also an opportunity. It compels India to confront the fragility of its development model and to chart a more resilient path forward. In that journey, the fusion of modern policy thinking with Gandhian principles may well provide the foundation for a more secure, equitable, and sustainable future. (The writer is an Hon. Professor at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, Karnataka)

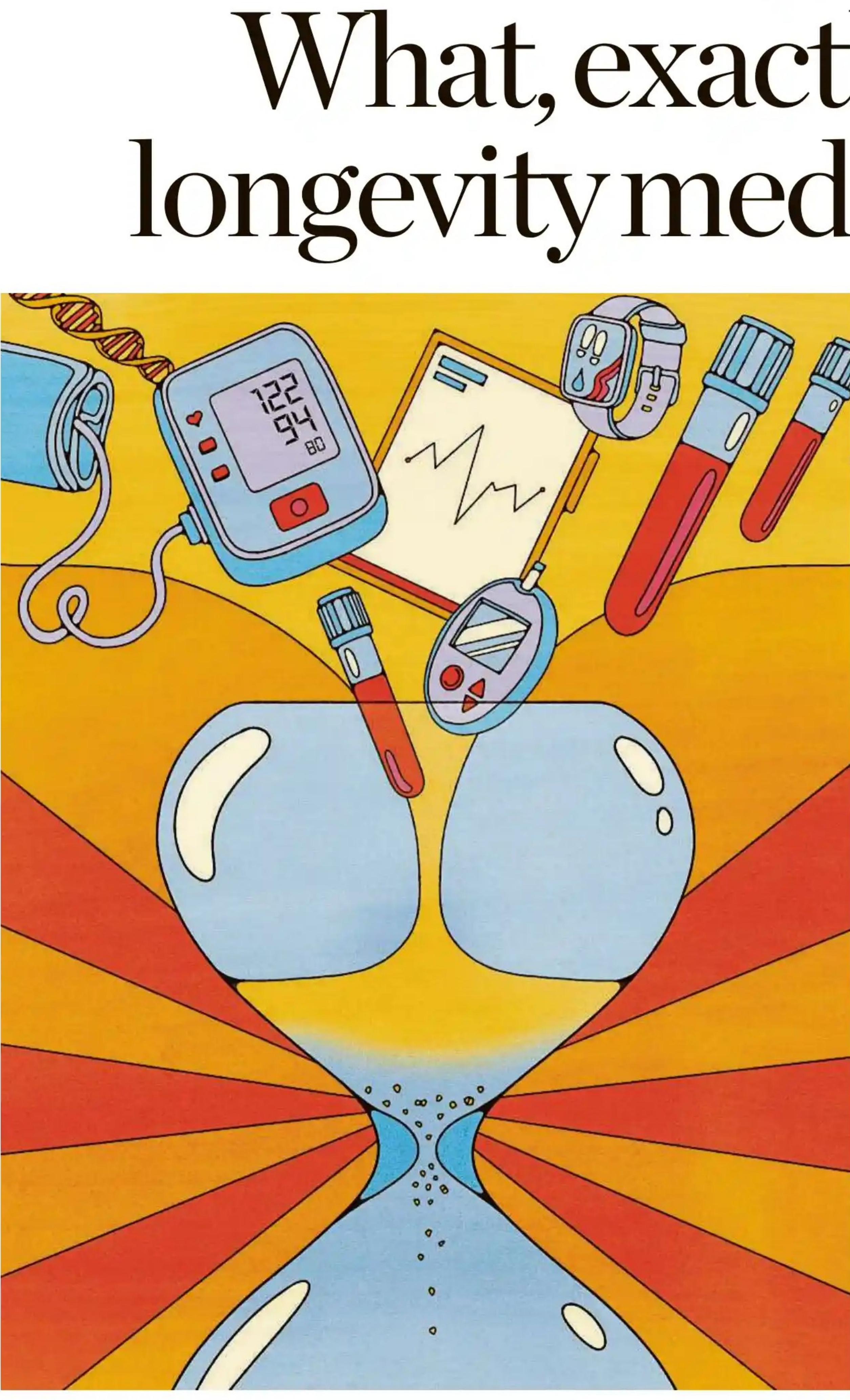
As people seek longer, healthier lives, a fast-growing field is racing ahead of evidence and regulation, blurring the line between meaningful intervention and costly illusion

RAFFI KRIKORIAN

Longevity medicine is a confusing brew of noble intentions, cutting-edge care and expensive snake oil. That's partly because there is currently no board certification, nor official guidelines, for practicing longevity medicine (also called geromedicine) in the United States. Virtually anyone with a medical degree can call themselves a longevity doctor; witness all the doctor-influencer types positioning themselves as experts on social media. And while there are practitioners working in good faith to help people live longer, healthier lives, and scientists pursuing treatments to potentially slow the ageing process, there are also clinics and companies marketing anything and everything in the name of longevity. That includes supplements, scans and infusions that have little evidence to support their use. Longevity medicine "requires a lot of scrutiny," said Bobby Mukkamala, the president of the American Medical Association. Are the treatments clinics are offering "based on something that's totally justified to work, or is it something that hasn't yet been proven?" We asked longevity doctors and other health experts about the most promising ways longevity medicine can help people, and where the hype has gotten ahead of the science — and may be doing more harm than good.

Data-driven precision? The experts said the best version can currently accomplish a few things: give people more time and attention than the typical primary care system allows for, offer more personalised care plans, and shift the priority to preventing disease rather than treating it after it appears. "I think in the best-case scenario, longevity medicine is what really good medicine has always aspired to be, but rarely had the tools to deliver," said Jordan Shlain, the founder of the concierge medical practice, Private Medical. A typical first step at many longevity clinics is to undergo a comprehensive work-up, which often includes things such as a fitness assessment, blood panel, genome sequencing and body scans. Some of these, such as a metabolic panel, are standard and regularly used in primary care practices. Others have historically been used in specialty care but are becoming more mainstream, such as tests for lipoprotein (a) and apolipoprotein B, two biomarkers related to cardiovascular health.

To the field's proponents, these tests are a way to gather data about a person's risk of various medical conditions and come up with a plan to intervene earlier. "When we think about primary care right now, we are still reacting to information that is, quote, 'after the fact,'" said Nicole Sirotin, the CEO of the Institute for Healthier Living Abu Dhabi. (While there are many longevity clinics based in the United States, much of the work to grow and standardise the field is taking place in other countries.) Sirotin cited blood sugar management as an example. In traditional primary care, a doctor likely would not prescribe medication or lifestyle changes until after



NYT

a person's glucose levels qualified them as prediabetic. With a longevity medicine approach, a provider might recommend similar treatments if a patient's blood sugar was trending high, even if they didn't reach the prediabetes threshold. That means a normal test result, often seen as an indication of health in traditional care, might not be deemed good enough in a longevity clinic. Andrea Maier, the co-director of the Academy for Healthy Longevity at the National University of Singapore, said she treats normal bloodwork as something that she can work with a patient to improve on. "We want the normal people to become optimal," Maier said. Because for people with borderline results, "in 10 years' time it's very likely that you are abnormal, so why would we wait?" In addition, recommendations about lifestyle behaviours that help you live longer — such as eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly and sleeping seven to eight hours a night — may be more bespoke. For example, a practitioner may recommend specific foods to eat or avoid based on a person's continuous glucose

monitor readings, instead of generally advising them to limit sugar and eat more fibre. But while a tailored approach could be beneficial in theory, the experts said there is scant research showing that it leads to better outcomes than following the standard guidelines. Longevity medicine care can cost you — and is very rarely covered by insurance. Some clinics in the United States operate on a fee-for-service model, and tests and treatments must be paid for out of pocket. At other practices, an annual membership can run five or six figures. Critics say that what people are ultimately paying for is not secret knowledge or markedly better treatments, but more time and attention from a provider. With primary care, "they're having to see you in 10 to 15 minutes and get you out the door," said Jessica Knurick, a dietitian who has been dubious of longevity medicine. If you pay \$100,000 a year to see a longevity doctor, just by having that kind of access, "even if they do the exact same thing, it's going to be a completely different experience." James Kirkland, the director of the

Centre for Advanced Gerotherapeutics at Cedars-Sinai in California, agreed that there isn't "much yet" in terms of health outcomes a patient can get from a longevity clinic that they can't receive from good primary care. He added that he is excited about the potential for geromedicine (his preferred term) over the next five to 10 years, but right now, he said, "there's a lot that's being done that is somewhat risky and is poorly evidence based."

Unproven treatments with a 'veneer of rigour' The lack of standardisation in longevity medicine has left a lot of room for false promises and pseudoscience. Clinics have been known to offer all sorts of unproven and potentially dangerous treatments, including peptides, stem cell therapy and plasma exchange therapy. "We have, at this point of time, people who died from stem cells, people who had very severe toxic reactions through infusions of different peptides," said Evelyn Bischof, the medical director of the Sheba Longevity Centre in Israel. "So there are risks, there are harms," she said. Then there are the subtler ways that longevity clinics stray from the science. For example, several of the experts took issue with some of the tests offered, including biological age tests, saying they aren't accurate enough to be used on an individual level. "They are useful at population levels," Kirkland said. "But there's tremendous interindividual and day-to-day variation in their readouts." Other treatments, such as supplements or off-label prescription drugs, are being studied in clinical trials and there is some evidence — mostly from animals — to support their use. But many of the experts still urged caution.

"Longevity medicine can be kind of a bit of quackery, rebranded," Shlain said: "Biomarkers give a veneer of rigour, and the supplements give it revenue, and the patient gets neither longevity nor honest conversations about things." While the experts were concerned about the snake oil on offer, they were also optimistic about the future. There are nascent global efforts to legitimise longevity medicine by creating government-issued licensing standards for clinics. And there are ongoing clinical trials that might one day lead to medications that can influence the root causes of aging — the field's ultimate goal. "In some way, geromedicine right now is a field without specific medicines, but they will come," said Eric Verdin, the president and chief executive of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging. But right now, he added, we may be "a little bit ahead of our skids in terms of vision." **The New York Times**

India's growth runs up against water

SUSHANTA MAHAPATRA

India likes to tell a success story in megawatts, gigabytes and harvests. But beneath that story is a harder truth: the country's next phase of growth will be decided not only by capital, labour and technology but also by water. According to a World Bank 2023 report, India accounts for roughly 18% of the world's population but has access to only about 4% of global freshwater resources, highlighting how deeply stretched India's water availability is relative to its demographic weight. That imbalance is no longer an environmental footnote—it is becoming a macroeconomic constraint.

For decades, water was treated as a rural welfare concern or a municipal problem. That view is outdated. Water now lies at the heart of industrial policy, exports and urban growth—and if mismanaged, it will mean higher investment risk, wider regional gaps and slower growth. The warning signs are already visible in the power sector. A Reuters Special Report (2025) noted that India plans to invest nearly \$80 billion in new coal-fired power capacity by 2031, with much of this expansion located in water-stressed regions. Thermal power generation is water-intensive because cooling systems require substantial volumes. When water runs short, plants reduce output or shut down temporarily—a recurring pattern seen in drought years. That is not merely an environmental disruption; it is a capital allocation problem. Building long-lived infrastructure in hydrologically fragile zones increases the risk of stranded assets and financial stress.

The same tension is emerging in the digital economy. India's ambition to become a global data hub is driving the rapid expansion of data centres across Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. According to *Reuters* (2025), the sector could attract around \$100 billion in investments by 2027, with operational capacity already at about 1.4 GW and several gigawatts more planned. But data centres also depend on water for cooling. A widely cited study in *Nature* (2021) estimated that a 1 MW data centre load can consume roughly 25.5 million litres of water annually, depending on cooling technology and climate conditions. Multiply that across gigawatts of capacity, and water demand becomes a serious local planning issue.

The sectors that define "New India"—digital infrastructure, energy and manufacturing—are also intensifying competition over scarce water. If planning

fails to keep pace, growth gains could lead to conflict among cities, farms, and industry. At its core, this reflects under-priced natural capital. Subsidised electricity and assured procurement lower the cost of groundwater extraction, delivering short-term gains in output and exports while deferring the long-term costs of depletion, rising subsidies and ecological stress. The official data confirm both progress and persistent risk. According to the *National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India*, 2024, released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (2024), India's total annual groundwater recharge is estimated at 446.90 billion cubic metres (BCM), while annual groundwater extraction stands at 245.64 BCM. About 11.1% of assessment units are classified as over-exploited. Nationally, about 11.13% of assessment units are classified as over-exploited. While this suggests improvement in aggregate sustainability compared to earlier assessments, stress remains geographically concentrated in the very regions that anchor agricultural output, industrial clusters and expanding cities. For business leaders and policymakers, the central question is no longer whether water scarcity exists. It is whether India will internalise water constraints into its growth model. First, water must be treated as a binding input in industrial policy, with project approvals based on basin-level capacity, not just plant-level compliance. Second, agriculture must shift from incentivising water consumption to rewarding water productivity through crop diversification and efficient irrigation. Third, cities must move beyond tanker-driven crisis management toward water accounting, reuse, leakage control and rational pricing that balances equity with sustainability. India aims to sustain 7–8% growth, expand manufacturing, electrify mobility and lead the digital economy. But none of this will endure if water stress disrupts power generation, industry or food supply. In the decade ahead, water will shape inflation, subsidy burdens, interstate politics and investor confidence. The true balance sheet of growth is not just fiscal or current account deficits; it is also aquifer levels, reservoir storage and basin sustainability. If India wants its growth story to last, it must stop treating water as a shadow variable. Water is not incidental to development—it is the constraint that will define it. (The writer teaches economics at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

DMK must be wiped out, says Barooah

Tanjavur, April 16 Congress President D. K. Barooah today asked Congressmen to fight for the elimination of the DMK from the body politic of Tamil Nadu. "We have to deal with the DMK as a political rival and also to eliminate them as a party which has introduced the canker in politics and institutionalised corruption. We have to fight them to the end and there is no compromise on this," he said. Mr. Barooah said despite several achievements to its credit, the Congress was unable to win the support of the poor people in some parts of the country.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Armstrong: Cong seeks JPC probe, legal action

New Delhi, April 16 After a late night strategy session here, the Congress put two preconditions to break the impasse in Parliament and extend its cooperation to the government. One, the law of land should be set in motion against all those seen as culpable on the *Tehelka* tapes and secondly, the government should constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into all aspects of the *Tehelka* expose. The decision about the two terms was taken at a two-and-a-half-hour long meeting of the political affairs committee of the Congress.

OASIS | ANITHA RAMACHANDER

Say it before it's too late

acting as if everything was fine.

But something has changed quietly, without anyone saying anything. The friend who always told you first about everything now only tells you second-hand. The child who always told you everything now says, "I'm fine," and you let it go. The spouse who always argued with you because she believed it was worth fighting for no longer does, not because things have gotten better, but because something inside her has given up. The sibling you text during festivals but no longer really talk to, there is something out there between



you. You never say it.

This is how loving relationships become empty, not from hate or betrayal, but from a moment within us that we fail to acknowledge. The hardest part to see is that we are also part of it. The guilt does not disappear just because we stop facing it. It causes us to keep conversations superficial, feel awkward around that person, and show warmth instead of genuinely feeling it. Because going deeper might unexpectedly lead us to places we are not ready to explore. All that distance, those careful con-

versations, and that love which survives but does not quite breathe often trace back to one moment- a missed apology. It is never too late. Say it with hesitation. Stumble over the words, too. It doesn't matter. What matters is that the other person finally hears that you saw your mistake and realises they were worth coming back for. Because one day, there will be no coming back. One of you will no longer be here, and the person left behind will think about that unspoken thing for the rest of their life. Do not let that be your story. Whoever just came to your mind, reach out today. Say it. Mean what you say. And watch what quietly comes back to life.



A N Kanthamma

Judicial magistrate dies of heart attack

MADHUGIRI (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: A 43-year-old judicial magistrate died of heart attack at her residence here on Thursday evening.

ANKanthamma, a native of Anchedoddi village in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district, was serving as the judicial magistrate at the Judicial Magistrate First Class court in Madhugiri since 2025.

The judicial officer was unmarried.

Cabinet clears bill against discrimination in higher education institutions

Proposes minimum one-year imprisonment, penalty of Rs 10k

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cabinet on Thursday cleared the Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Exclusion or Injustice) (Education and Dignity Rights) Bill, 2025, to prevent discrimination in higher education institutions.

As per the bill, if injustice is proven in the name of caste, class or religion at higher education institutions, there will

be a minimum one-year imprisonment along with a penalty of Rs 10,000.

The bill proposes a separate ministry to provide legal protection for education and dignity rights. The bill will be placed before the legislature at the next session.

As stated in the bill, discrimination in higher education will be considered a cognizable, non-bailable offence. If offence is repeated, the guilty

will face not less than three years of imprisonment and a fine up to Rs 1 lakh. Courts will also have the authority to order compensation up to Rs 1 lakh to the affected student. For educational institutions violating the law, government grant will be suspended.

Under the leadership of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, officials of the law department, in consultation with higher education department, prepared the draft of the bill.

Later, a delegation of ministers went to Delhi and explained the bill to leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. After making some changes, the draft was finalised.

OTHER DECISIONS

- To withdraw the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences amendment Bill 2018 and to introduce a new comprehensive bill.
- To constitute a committee headed by the chief secretary to discuss internal reservation and to conduct a special Cabinet meeting on the issue on April 24.
- To sign an MoU with union government for the extended Jal Jeevan mission.

Govt prioritises drinking water as shortage looms

Monsoon, From Page 1

A total of 213 taluks and 2,410 gram panchayats face the threat of drinking water shortage this summer. At present, 114 taluks and 598 gram panchayats are experiencing shortage, the CM said. "Drinking water is being supplied to 137 villages through 129 tankers. Additionally, 585 private borewells have been hired to supply water to 515 villages," he said.

Kalaburagi (147 gram panchayats), Bagalkot (114), Be-

lgaavi (127), Chikkamagaluru (115), Haveri (138), Mandya (130), Tumakuru (141) and Uttara Kannada (125) districts are likely to face a drinking water problem. Currently, 27 urban local bodies are facing drinking water shortage, and 95 more have been identified as vulnerable. Water is being supplied to 145 wards through 57 tankers, and 22 borewells have been taken on lease, the government said.

Deputy commissioners have Rs 419.5 crore to ensure drinking water supply, Sid-

daramaiah said and directed officials to also arrange shade for citizens. He warned that deputy commissioners would be held responsible for any disruption in water supply.

Officials were instructed to respond promptly to public complaints regarding drinking water and to set up control rooms at taluk and ward levels. The West Asia war may affect fertilizer supply, Siddaramaiah said, and asked officials to prevent hoarding by traders and ensure timely availability to farmers.

Voters cleared till 2 days before Bengal polls can vote: SC to EC

Bengal poll, From Page 1

"There is thus no gainsaying that keeping in mind the multi-tiered safeguards put in place by this court, it becomes clear that if an appeal is allowed by the appellate tribunal and a conclusive direction for inclusion or exclusion is issued, such directions shall be duly effectuated prior to the state of West Bengal proceeding to polling on April 23 or April 29, 2026, as the case may be," the bench said.

The bench, however, clarified that mere pendency of appeals preferred by excluded persons before the appellate tribunals would not entitle

them to exercise their right to vote.

"If such a scenario were to be permitted to subsist, the consequence would be that objectors may likewise seek denial of the right to vote to those individuals whose names appear in the revised electoral roll, but against whom such objectors have preferred appeals," the bench added.

The court pointed out the resultant situation would effectively recreate the very state of affairs that existed prior to the entrustment of the verification exercise to the judicial officers.

"This, in our considered

view, cannot be permitted, particularly when judicial officers from the state of West Bengal, duly assisted by judicial officers from the states of Jharkhand and Odisha, have completed what can only be described as a truly herculean task within a remarkably short span of time," the bench said in its order.

The court was then informed 34 lakh appeals were filed not only against wrongful exclusion but also against inclusion in the revised electoral rolls.

As many as 19 appellate tribunals have been formed to deal with those appeals since April 13.

Women's quota: Southern, smaller states get better deal, says Surya

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Defending the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, which seeks to amend the women's reservation law, along with two other related bills, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Thursday said that southern states and smaller states 'could not have got a better deal' under the proposed framework.

Speaking during the debate in the Lok Sabha, the Bangalore South MP accused Opposition parties, particularly southern regional parties like the DMK, of running a 'misleading propaganda' campaign. "Why are Opposition parties and some regional parties of the South making so much noise? The tears they are shedding are crocodile tears," he said. Surya emphasised that

MP draws flak for Indo-Pak partition analogy

Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya came under attack from the Congress and the BRS leaders for his remarks on Andhra Pradesh bifurcation, during his speech in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, reports DHNS from Hyderabad.

"This analogy is not only factually untenable but also deeply insensitive and inappropriate in the context of parliamentary discourse," said Telangana Transport Minister Ponnampallabhar. He urged the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to order the expunction of the said remarks from the official records of the Lok Sabha. He sought that Surya must be directed to tender an

unconditional apology to the House and to the people of Telangana. BRS Working President K Taraka Rama Rao termed the comparison 'utterly foolish' and a grave insult to the state's identity.

He emphasized that Telangana was not a 'gift' or an act of charity from any political entity. Telangana Jagruthi founder, former MLC K Kavitha said, "You are not only insulting all those who fought for Telangana over six decades to fulfill the region's aspirations and end discrimination we faced, but you are also dishonoring the memory of thousands of individuals who sacrificed their lives to make Telangana a reality."

Lok Sabha seat expansion proposed by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Surya argued that it would violate the fundamental democratic principle of 'one person, one vote, one value'.

In a sharp attack on the Congress-led UPA government, he said the division of Andhra Pradesh by the Congress-led UPA government had been handled worse than the partition of India.

"The Congress-led UPA government divided the undivided Andhra Pradesh into AP and Telangana. The partition of AP and Telangana was done in a worse fashion than the British did during the partition of India and Pakistan. This is the kind of legacy that they have," he said.

Surya's remarks kicked up a row with both Congress and BRS parties in Telangana criticising and demanding his apology.

southern states stand to gain more seats after delimitation and urged that the exercise should not be viewed as a disadvantage to the South.

He highlighted the Modi gov-

ernment's decisive approach to long-pending issues, citing the implementation of 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) and the abrogation of Article 370 as examples of its commitment

solving problems rather than postponing them.

AP bifurcation

Strongly opposing the 'hybrid model' on delimitation and



Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysorasandal.org e-mail: ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com
Date: 16.04.2026

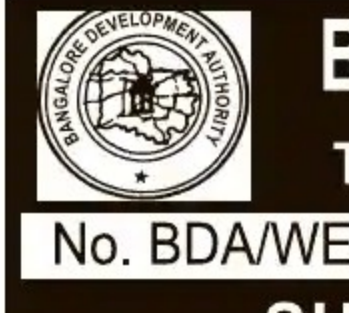
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2026-27/IND1234	Procurement of PET Bottles for Freshnol 1000ml without Cap for a period of three months	1400000 Nos.	15-04-2026	23-04-2026
2	KSDL/2026-27/IND1237	Procurement of Geraniol	22600 kgs	16-04-2026	18-05-2026
3	KSDL/2026-27/IND1238	Procurement of Orange oil	17700 kgs	16-04-2026	18-05-2026
4	KSDL/2026-27/IND1217	Supply and installation of UPS, Battery and metal stand	Goods	16-04-2026	04-05-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)



BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020
No. BDA/WEST/1TENDER/PMC/2026-27/16 Date: 15.04.2026

SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES (Through GoK KPP Portal only)

Bangalore Development Authority is inviting tender under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work: **(1) Name of the work: Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of RCC Drain, Formation of Roads, Development of parks in Sir M.Vishveshwaraiah Layout 1st to 6th Blocks and further extension of Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Layout 7th to 9th Blocks & Comprehensive Developments in 1st, 2nd & 8th Block of Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Layout. Project Cost: Rs. 6985.00 Lakhs. PMC Cost: Rs. 69.85 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 2.00 Lakhs.** Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (1) Last date to receive pre-bid queries: **22.04.2026 up to 17.00 hrs.** (2) Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **22.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs. onwards.** (3) Last date for submission of bids is: **24.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.** (4) Date and time of opening Technical bids: **As per KPP Portal.**
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) ■ @BDAOOfficialGok
Sd/- Executive Engineer, West Division, BDA, Bengaluru



KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/Tr(OP)/Z/EE(C)-2/AEE(C)-2/2026-27/390-93 Date: 15.04.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works:
1) Providing cattle trap at main entrance of 66/11kV sub-station Doddakura. Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.7,00,000.** Category: **Others.**
2) Providing Vehicle Parking Shelter to Division Office at 220/66/11kV sub-station premises Chintamani. Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.10,00,000.** Category: **Others.**
3) Extension of CRB at 220kv station, KIADB, Doddaballapura (Call-3). Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.20,00,000.** Category: **Others.**
4) Replacing of 40mm existing jelly by 25/20mm jelly and providing jelly barricading, repairs to switchgear shelter and other allied works at 66/11kv sub-station, Pillaguppa. (Call-2). Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.16,10,000.** Category: **CAT-1.**
5) Construction of periphery compound wall (towards burial grounds) at 66/11kv sub-station, Nallimaradahalli. (Call-3). Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.10,50,000.** Category: **Others.**
6) Extension of control room building at 66/11kv sub-station, Pillaguppa. (Call-2). Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.18,00,000.** Category: **Others.**
7) Reconstruction of aged/weakened compound wall at the backside of BESCOM store at 220kv receiving station premises, Kolar. Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.15,75,000.** Category: **Others.**
8) Construction of periphery compound wall at 66/11KV sub-station premises N.G.HULKUR. Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.25,00,000.** Category: **General.**
9) Construction of periphery compound wall at 66/11KV sub-station, ADDAGAL. Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.48,00,000.** Category: **General.**
10) Providing RCC Approach Road from main road of station to TL M Office building at 66/11KV sub-station KGF (BEML). Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.48,00,000.** Category: **CAT-II (A).**
11) Construction of periphery compound wall at 66/11KV sub-station Kamasamudra (phase-1). Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.48,00,000.** Category: **ST**
12) Providing RCC Road for new division office and colony premises at 220/66/11kV sub-station, Chintamani. Estimated Cost (Including GST): **Rs.35,00,000.** Category: **SC.**

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "E-Procurement KPTCL" or to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after **21.04.2026.**
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, A. R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.



Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office: 5th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Ph.: 080-42775575
Fax: 080-42775589 Website: www.kstcdc.com
No: KSTDC/BIAL/OTH/01/2026-27/99 Date: 16.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Limited, Bengaluru invites tender from interested bidders for the following tender:

Tender No.	Description	Last date & time for bid submission
KSTDC/2026-27/SE0025	Selection of agency for design, development, deployment, operation and maintenance of Yellow Board Taxi/vehicle management system (VMS) at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB)	02.05.2026 at 17.00 hrs.

The detailed tender documents are available in the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> For any further clarifications contact +9240214000/01, e-Mail support: support@eprochelpdesk.com
Sd/- General Manager (Admin), KSTDC



Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Office of the Additional Director,
Central Government Health Scheme
E-Wing, 3rd Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 034.
No.37-1/0055CGHS BNN/720 Date:08.04.2026

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CGHS Bengaluru is inviting eligible retired Homeopathy Doctors from Central/State/PSU for filling up of Vacant posts on contract basis.
Full details available in the website: www.cghs.mohfw.gov.in
Sd/- Additional Director, CGHS, Bengaluru



Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/19/2025-26 Date: 15-04-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the Purchase of Medical Equipments for the Super Speciality Hospital at Vijayapura Hospital. Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 17-04-2026
Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 29-04-2026 at 11.30 AM
Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 19-05-2026 before 5.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 20-05-2026 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**
Sd/- Director
Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.



Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#6/13/1, 10th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabharvi, Bengaluru - 560072.
Ph-080-22282220, E-mail: kredlmd@gmail.com,
Website: www.kredl.karnataka.gov.in
No.KREDL/07/SG/F-2101/2025-26 Date: 16.04.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>)
Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), a Government of Karnataka Undertaking, hereby invites tenders for **Selection of Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contractor for establishment of 704 kWAC / 774 kWpDC Solar Power Projects under Net-Metering Model, with Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance for a period of 10 years** in order to meet the **Power Requirement of Kuvempu University and other buildings associated with the University.** Details of the Project is as below
Project Details: (1) Kuvempu University Campus-600 kWAC/ 660 kWpDC Solar Power Plant, (2) Sahyadri College Campus-70 kWAC / 77 kWpDC Solar Power Plant, (3) Near Jackwell Area, Bhadra Dam-34 kWAC / 37 kWpDC Solar Power Plant. **Total Project Cost:** Rs. 4.12 Crores. **EMD Amount:** Rs. 6.18 Lakhs. **Time for Completion of Project:** 8 Months.
Tender documents will be available in the **KPP e-procurement portal (kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 17.04.2026. The last date for submission of bids is 18.05.2026.** Any further amendments, if any, shall be notified only through the KPP portal (kppp.karnataka.gov.in).
Note: KREDL reserves the right to cancel the bidding process and invite fresh bids without assigning any reason and without any liability or obligation. Any further modifications will only be notified on KPP Portal (kppp.karnataka.gov.in) website.
Sd/-
Assistant General Manager-SG, KREDL

PM reassures Lok Sabha ahead of delimitation vote

Delimitation, From Page 1

The strength of all the southern MPs put together would increase from 129 or 23.76% of the current strength of the LS to 195 or 23.76% when the total number of seats in the House are increased to 816 by adding 50% seats, Shah said.

All elections till 2029, Shah said, will be held as per the existing strengths of the state legislatures. Shah further told the LS that he will give more details on Friday. He rejected the allegation of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi that the government is gerrymandering constituencies ahead of the 2029 LS polls.

Earlier, the Opposition demanded a division on the introduction of the Bills by Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal, indicating they had closed ranks to defeat the Bill that requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. While Shah

spoke on the specifics of seat allocation, Modi's intervention was more political as he sought to allay apprehensions among the southern and small states who fear that the delimitation of LS constituencies based on 2011 census would shrink their representation in the federal polity.

In a message to the Opposition, the PM said that those who opposed granting women their rights have not been forgiven by the women of this country. "They have suffered the consequences." He added that he is willing to give a "blank cheque" to those wanting to take credit for the passage of the Bill. To counter heartland parties like Akhilesh Yadav's SP that have been demanding sub-quota for OBCs in the women's reservation, Modi, while acknowledging his own roots in an "extremely backward community", emphasised that it is his duty to take every section of society along.

Judges transferred

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday issued annual transfer orders of judicial officers across the state. The transfers will take effect from June 1, 2026.

Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, who was officiating as the judge of Special Court for cases involving elected representatives in the state has been transferred as Director, Karnataka Mediation Centre, Bengaluru. K B Shivaprasad, serving as

I Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mandya, will replace Santhosh Gajanan Bhat. Among the other transfers, M Chandrashekhhar Reddy will be the new Registrar General of the Karnataka High Court.

K S Bharath Kumar, the incumbent Registrar General has been transferred to the post of Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru city. Ron Vasudev will be the new Registrar (Judicial) of the High Court.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior or Karnataka
Forecast April 17: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	37.6	20	00
Bidar	39.8	24.8	00
Vijayapura	40.6	22.6	00
Dharwad	38	21.8	00
Haveri	37.4	24.2	00
Kalaburagi	42.1	26.7	00
Raichur	40.6	28.8	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.7	25.9	00
Karwar	35.8	26.4	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	35.8	27.2	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	22.9	00
Bengaluru	35.8	24.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	37.7	20.9	00
Davangere	37.5	22.8	00
Hassan	34.2	15	00
Mysuru	36.4	21.2	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	36.4	19.6	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	39.1	20.3	00
Kolkata	36.4	27.6	00
Mumbai	34.5	24	00
Chennai	37.7	28.2	00
Pune	39.7	17.1	00
Hyderabad	40.6	28.4	00
Thirupuram	35.8	27.2	00

UCC a constitutional ambition, not linked to religion: Apex court

Issues notice to Centre on plea challenging Muslim women's inheritance rights

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) does not have anything to do with any particular religion but is a constitutional ambition, as it decided to examine a plea about discrimination faced by Muslim women in inheritance rights.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joydyma Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi sought the Centre's response on a plea challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, on the grounds that they are allegedly discriminatory against women.

The court issued notice to the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs after considering sub-

EQUALITY CODE

- SC examines plea on Muslim women's inheritance rights
- Petitioners say Shariat Act provisions discriminatory under Article 14
- Plea says women receive half or less in inheritance than men

missions made by advocate Prashant Bhushan on behalf of petitioners Poulomi Pavini Shukla and Nyaya Naari Foundation. Bhushan contended that it was discriminatory to say that women will get half or even less than what their male counterparts will get by way of inheritance.

"Now, the question is whether it is an essential religious

practice protected under the Constitution. For example, in the case of triple talaq, this court held it was not an essential religious practice. This is purely a civil matter and cannot be an essential religious practice protected under Article 25," Bhushan said.

The bench, however, said someone will argue it is a question of personal law.

Bhushan replied that it may be a question of personal law but not an essential religious practice, and it is not protected under Article 25. In the absence of that protection, it is certainly subject to Article 14 and ex facie discriminatory.

The counsel said the question is what will happen if the provisions are struck down. If the court rules that Sharia law will not apply, then one non-discriminatory law that could be applied is the Indian Succession Act, which is completely agnostic towards gender. He said that Hindu succession is codified under the Hindu Succession Act, while Muslim succession law is not codified.

Delhi boy fights cancer to score 96.6% in CBSE Class 10 exam

NEW DELHI, PTI: Dreaming of the stars while battling cancer, a 15-year-old Delhi boy has scored an impressive 96.6% in the CBSE Class 10 board examinations, overcoming months of treatment and study from hospital beds to stay focused on his goal of becoming a space researcher.

Aarav, a resident of Mehrauli, pursued his studies alongside treatment, often attending classes from the hospital and preparing for exams during brief periods of recovery, his father Ajai Arora said.

Arora, a doctor, told PTI that Aarav was diagnosed with cancer in 2022 and had to undergo a spine surgery, after which he remained confined to home and hospital for

nearly a year. At the time, he was in Class 7.

"Despite everything, he did not give up on studies. Even in the hospital, he attended online classes. The school supported him throughout," he said.

The father said the family had kept their expectations modest given the circumstances. "We just hoped he would pass somehow. 'Bas pass kar jaye' was our thinking. But this result has left us speechless," he said.

The family is now celebrating the achievement, with relatives visiting to congratulate Aarav. Arora said, adding that they are planning a gift for him, though the teenager never demanded one.

SpiceJet, Akasa Air flights collide at Delhi airport; probe begins

NEW DELHI, PTI

An Akasa Air aircraft and a SpiceJet plane suffered damage after they came in contact at the Delhi airport on Thursday afternoon, and aviation watchdog DGCA is probing the incident, according to officials.

Both Boeing 737 aircraft have been grounded at the airport after the incident.

The officials said the Akasa Air aircraft was stationary on the taxiway and preparing for takeoff, while the SpiceJet plane was taxiing towards the parking stand when the incident happened at around 2.15 pm at Terminal 1 of the airport.

Akasa Air's plane was to operate flight QP 1406 from Delhi to Hyderabad, while the SpiceJet aircraft had arrived from Leh after operating the flight SG 124, they added.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the winglet of SpiceJet's Boeing 737-700 aircraft, VT-SLB, taxiing in the allocated parking bay after operating flight SG 124 (Leh-Delhi) hit the Horizontal Tail Surface (HTS) of Akasa Boeing 737 plane positioned on the apron after pushback for operating flight on sector (Delhi-Hyderabad).

"Due to impact, the RH winglet of SpiceJet aircraft and HTS of Akasa Air aircraft were damaged. DGCA is carrying

out further investigation," it said in a statement.

Akasa Air said its aircraft operating the flight QP 1406 from Delhi to Hyderabad had to return to the bay.

Preliminary information indicates that Akasa Air's aircraft was stationary when another airline's aircraft made contact with it, the airline said in a statement.

The aircraft involved was a Boeing 737 MAX 8.

The airline said all passengers and crew were safely disembarked. "In line with established protocols, the relevant authorities have been informed, and the matter is under investigation," it added.

Labour activist emerges as main accused behind Noida violence, arrested

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

An alleged 'Naxal sympathiser' and labour activist has emerged as the main accused behind the large-scale violence in Noida during a protest by workers from different companies over demands for a wage hike and other benefits earlier this week.

Roopesh Roy, who runs a labour outfit 'Bigul Dasta' in Noida, was arrested by police along with several others, many of whom were not employees of any company and were allegedly associated with his organisation.

Sources said Roy's WhatsApp chats revealed that he had not only provoked workers but also formulated

the protest strategy, which allegedly included triggering violence.

Police are trying to ascertain details about Roy's associates and whether he was in contact with other organisations.

Sources said members of these groups, in a well-planned manner, approached workers at various factories, forced them to stop work and join the

protest. They had also held prior meetings to chalk out their strategy.

500 detained

Police have so far detained more than 500 people in connection with the violence, during which several vehicles were set ablaze and offices damaged as thousands of workers went on the rampage.

Noida witnessed large-scale violence earlier this week after thousands of workers demanding a wage hike and other benefits resorted to heavy stone-pelting, set vehicles on fire and damaged offices in the town's main industrial hub.

Police said those involved in the violence would face action and be made to pay for damage to public property.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie



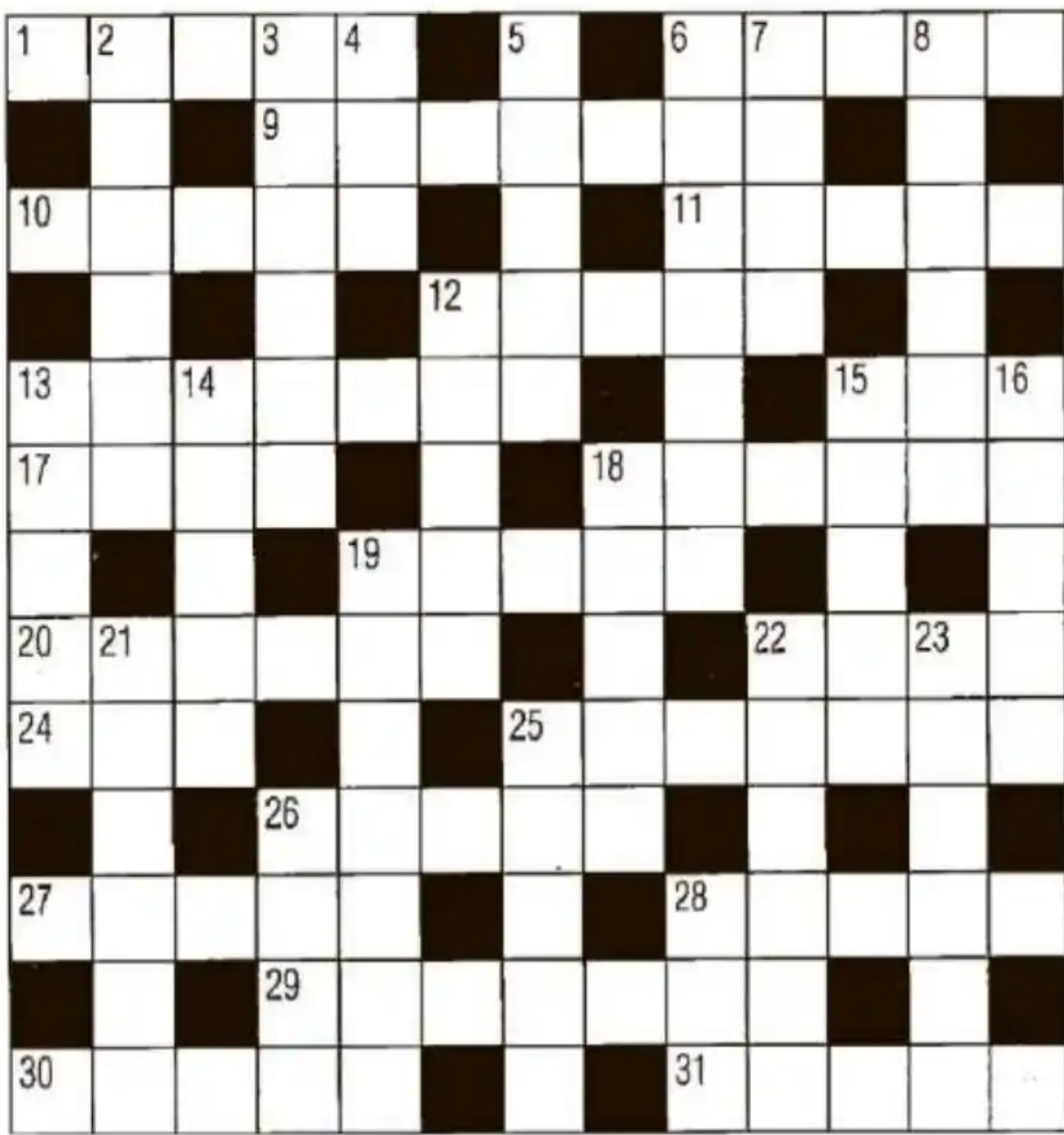
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12397



- ACROSS**
- 1 Clan (5)
 - 6 Coerce (5)
 - 9 Assembled (7)
 - 10 Shoe part (5)
 - 11 Shade of brown (5)
 - 12 Ships (5)
 - 13 Past (7)
 - 15 Ready (3)
 - 17 Curved building (4)
 - 18 Liquid container (6)
 - 19 Petty officer (5)
 - 20 River (6)
 - 22 Fruit (4)
 - 24 Domestic fowl (3)
 - 25 Gathered (7)
 - 26 Passageway (5)
 - 27 Location (5)
 - 28 Swamp (5)
 - 29 Natural surroundings (7)
 - 30 Sadness (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Mend (6)
 - 3 Respiration (6)
 - 4 Listening organ (3)
 - 5 Metal mixture (5)
 - 6 Chain of ribbons (7)
 - 7 Poems (4)
 - 8 Hand tool (6)
 - 12 Besom (5)
 - 13 Severe (5)
 - 14 Deride (5)
 - 15 Blemish (5)
 - 16 Lukewarm (5)
 - 18 Beast (5)
 - 19 Flavouring (3,4)
 - 21 Cashier (6)
 - 22 Martial art (6)
 - 23 Small mammal (6)
 - 25 Magic spirit (5)
 - 26 Pain (4)
 - 28 Insane (3)

CRYPTIC

- ACROSS**
- 1 Plain woman repeatedly left out (5)
 - 6 A desire to get a letter (5)
 - 9 Union men? (7)
 - 10 Composer of a piece about some prizes (5)
 - 11 Fear of the man with the gun? (5)
 - 12 Dance with uncle before the seaman returns (5)
 - 13 A Shakespeare character's firearms? (7)
 - 15 East-Enders' queen, or just a little boy (3)
 - 17 Does he do nothing but sit back? (4)
 - 18 Can it be red hot? (6)
 - 19 Witches once to be found around mid-Devon (5)
 - 20 To have a late night is upsetting to pups (4,2)
 - 22 Bother about the Americans being in fearless extremities (4)
 - 24 In time, you'll need a new one (3)
 - 25 Lovers of cruelty? (7)
 - 26 People having fun with politics? (5)
 - 27 It involves shooting at 'flying saucers'! (5)
 - 28 Long to say yes to sailors? (5)
 - 29 Evertonians with taste? (7)
 - 30 Bit of a boulder, not in a top position (5)
 - 31 Something hard for the butcher to use? (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 To the Spanish, I see, it means draw forth (6)
 - 3 Throws out or discards without right (6)
 - 4 Much used by pilots (3)
 - 5 Certain cashers accommodate old people (5)
 - 6 Like those entertaining nights with Sinbad the Sailor (7)
 - 7 She is a bit of a lady (4)
 - 8 Tony's cup? (6)
 - 12 Could it sail from Oslo, on the quiet? (5)
 - 13 I pose with aplomb (5)
 - 14 He may be simple, but the real one is "Pure" (5)
 - 15 Figure to get a new suit with the dance in mind (5)
 - 16 In which moves are made to attack royalty (5)
 - 18 To get out of debt, do something about income (5)
 - 19 Official artist in court, possibly (7)
 - 21 Absorbed, but deceived (4,2)
 - 22 The very best handwriting is out of the way (6)
 - 23 Play the lead for one short day, then have a lean time (6)
 - 25 Coldly formal due to silly tiffs (5)
 - 26 Chap from Lampeter (4)
 - 28 The right answer? (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12396

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 4, A-ff ord 7, Hair-loom 8, Briefs 10, S-we-ep 13, Be-er 14, Man-X 15, Barb 16, Pew 17, Emit 19, Ural 21, F-rightful 23, Lots 24, Buff 26, Me-G 27, Stub 29, Flak 32, Dean 33, A-side 34, Car-ess 35, Tough guy 36, Motley.

DOWN: 1, Chas.-M 2, VIX-EN 3, Fla-p 4, Amber 5, F-air 6, Re-fu-el 9, Re-buff 11, Wax 12, E-X-ert 13, Bath bun 15, Big 16, Pal (lap) 18, Misses 20, Ruffs 21, Fog 22, Tub 23, Leg-a-to 25, Had 28, Ta-sty 30, Lingo 31, Ken-Ya 32, Deal 33, Ar-go.

EASY

ACROSS: 4, Negate 7, Ambrosia 8, Senora 10, Lords 13, Hang 14, Sate 15, Bolt 16, Gem 17, Trio 19, Eros 21, Meandered 23, Sari 24, Lass 26, Tap 27, Slur 29, Iris 32, Siam 33, Snare 34, Botany 35, Estrange 36, Orator.

DOWN: 1, Tails 2, Abort 3, Rots 4, Nasal 5, Gong 6, Tories 9, Enters 11, Oar 12, Deter 13, Hoodlum 15, Bin 16, God 18, Raisin 20, Resin 21, Map 22, Ear 23, Savour 25, Fr 28, Layer 30, Rainy 31, Sewer 32, Salt 33, Surf.

Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



◆ SU-DO-KU-6882 ◆

	9			1			3	
		8		7	6			
3								
		4	5			9		2
	1	6				3	5	
8		2			1	7		
				2	9		1	
	8			5			4	

9	7	4	3	5	2	6	8	1
2	5	3	6	8	1	4	9	7
1	8	6	7	9	4	2	3	5
7	2	1	4	6	3	9	5	8
4	3	5	9	1	8	7	2	6
6	9	8	5	2	7	3	1	4
8	1	9	2	4	6	5	7	3
5	4	7	1	3	9	8	6	2
3	6	2	8	7	5	1	4	9

SOLUTION TO 6881

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3336

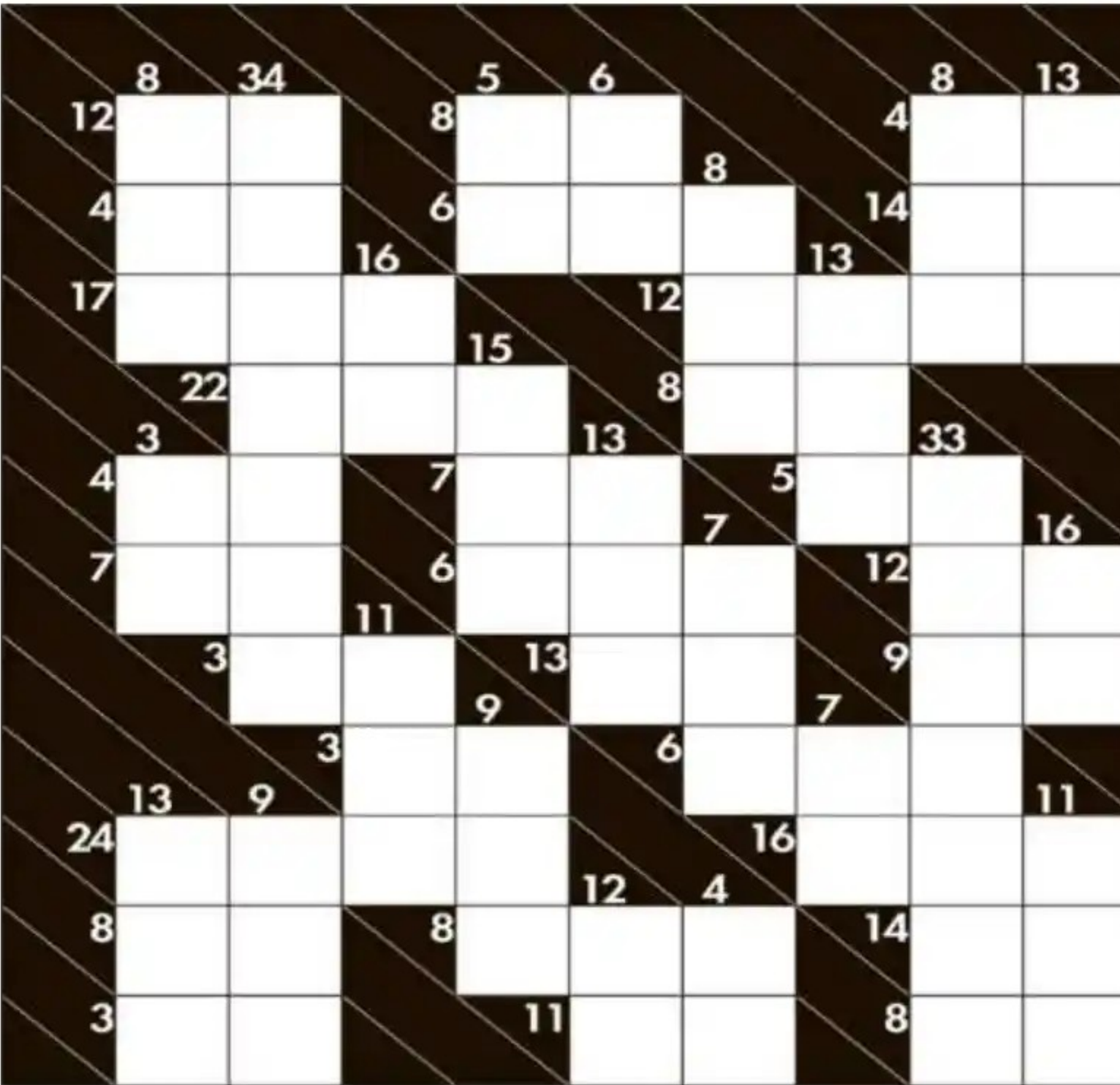
4	4	3	8	1	6	2	7
8	7	7	6	2	2	4	5
5	3	2	7	4	8	1	6
8	7	6	8	2	7	1	1
6	5	1	7	1	1	2	3
5	2	4	8	8	7	6	1
4	6	1	2	3	1	7	8
1	1	1	3	6	5	1	4

SOLUTION TO 3335

8	6	2	4	3	7
6	8	7	5	4	1
5	1	2	6	7	3
2	8	3	7	4	6
1	7	4	8	5	2
5	2	6	1	8	4
1	3	5	6	8	7
7	4	8	3	1	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3336



SOLUTION TO 3335

12	4	9	15	7	9	11	22	14	8	6
1	6	3	2	6	8	5	9	4		
2	3	5	8	6	3	1				
3	5	2	1	9	6	3	1			
4	2	8	1	3	9	4	1	3		
5	7	1	3	9	1	2	6	5	1	
6	5	8	4	9	1	4	9	2	3	
7	9	6	2	7	1	5	6	7	9	
8	2	1								

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X- 3888

		5			2		8	
						1		
							7	4
5	9				3	7		
1							2	3
6		8			4	7	1	
							4	
					2	5		

SOLUTION TO 3887

8	9	5	4	6	1	7	2	3
2	4	6	7	3	5	9	1	8
1	7	3	2	8	9	6	4	5
6	3	8	5	1	4	2	7	9
5	1	9	3	2	7	4	8	6
7	2	4	8	9	6	3	5	1
3	8	7	9	5	2	1	6	4
4	5	1	6	7	3	8	9	2
9	6	2	1	4	8	5	3	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DELIMITATION, WOMEN'S QUOTA: Proposed legislation also termed disguised attempt to alter electoral process

Open attack on democracy: Oppn on contentious Bills

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Thursday attacked the Narendra Modi government over the three Bills for delimitation and early implementation of 33% quota, calling them an “open attack” on Indian democracy, an attempt in “disguise” to alter the electoral process, and a “political tool” for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Participating in the debate, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra claimed that the government had begun “finishing off” democracy by putting pressure on institutions like the Election Commission (EC), but an “open attack” had now been launched with the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill.

Questioning the BJP’s intent, she asked whether the government could not give 33% to women on the existing 543 Lok Sabha seats instead of increasing the overall number to 850 by a Delimitation Commission with the 2011 Census as the base.

“This seems fine on the surface, but the real meaning comes to the fore when one carefully reads it. It smells of politics,” she said.



AKHILESH YADAV
Samajwadi Party chief

We are not against women’s reservation, but we oppose the haste and the way it is being brought. Without a fresh census, relying on 2011 data will not ensure accurate representation. If a census is conducted, there will be a demand for a caste census and appropriate reservation. This is not real empowerment but symbolism.

This Bill had another dangerous omission, as the expansion of Parliament by 50% was proposed, but nothing was written about any concrete process for it, she added.

Demanding the Bills’ withdrawal, senior Congress MP K C Venugopal alleged that delimitation was being “used as a political tool ahead of 2029 elections”, while also asking why no all-party meeting had been convened despite repeated requests.

“You are trying to sabotage democracy in the name of women’s reservation... You are trying to diminish the status of the states for political ends... Please withdraw the Bill. Call an all-party meeting. We will give you suggestions,” he said.

Venugopal also said the government should have implemented women’s quota in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, as demanded by the Congress, “if it was really sincere”.

He said, “Do it now. The entire Opposition is giving you the blank cheque. Give reservation to women as per the 2023 Bill against the existing strength of Parliament.”

The Samajwadi Party’s Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the government was turning “naari” (women) into a “naara” (slogan) for political benefit, while also questioning its commitment to OBC women.

The BJP and its allies have governments in 21 states and Union Territories, but only one woman chief minister, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said.

TMC deputy leader Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar said the Bills were a “disguise” to alter the electoral process and harm democracy.

She also expressed apprehension that the proposed Delimitation Commission would be another “authoritarian” institution, “just like the Election Commission”.



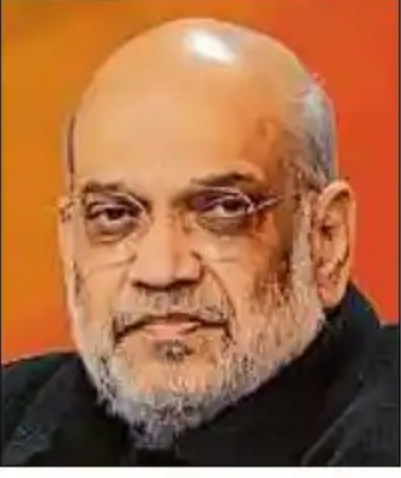
DMK workers burn copies of the proposed Delimitation Bill during a protest, at the party office, in Chennai, on Thursday. PTI

‘Religion-based quota unconstitutional’: Shah slams SP’s Dharmendra Yadav

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Advocacy of quota for Muslim women in Parliament and Assemblies by Samajwadi Party’s Dharmendra Yadav met with strong opposition from Home Minister Amit Shah in Lok Sabha on Thursday, as he said reservation based on religion will be unconstitutional, and such a question does not arise.

The exchange took place when Opposition MPs were objecting to the introduction of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill for early implementation of 33% quota after a delimitation based on the Census 2011, and two linked Bills.

Opposing the introduction of the Bills, Yadav said the draft legislation was “destroying and dismantling” the Constitution and claimed that linking delimitation with



Amit Shah

women’s quota is against the spirit of the Constitution.

“In the name of the Women’s Bill, the government wants to do across India what it did in Kashmir and Assam (through delimitation). The entire Opposition will oppose it. If there is no quota for OBC women or Muslim women, the Samajwadi Party will not support it. We want the Bill to be withdrawn,” he said.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju immediately objected to it, saying there is no provision for quota based on religion. “Why just Muslim women, the entire womenfolk of the country should get benefits,” he said.

Terming Yadav’s demand as unconstitutional, Shah said the Indian Constitution does not allow reservations in the name of religion. “I want to make it clear our government’s resolve is that Muslims will not be given any kind of reservation on the basis of religion. That question does not arise,” he said.

When Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh also referred to Muslim women, Shah shot back, “If the Samajwadi Party gives all its tickets to Muslim women, where do we have any objection, we have no objections at all.”

He also rejected suggestions by Akhilesh that the government was running away from the Caste Census, saying the caste census would be carried out along with the population enumeration.

Macron dials Modi; discusses West Asia, Hormuz

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron and discussed the situation in West Asia, even as both leaders emphasised the need to urgently restore safety and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.



Emmanuel Macron

President Macron initiated the telephonic call. In a post on X, Modi also said, “We will continue our close cooperation to advance peace and stability in the region and beyond.”

On March 5, Modi and Macron had spoken over the phone and discussed their “shared concerns” over the evolving situation in West Asia and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

“Received a phone call from my dear friend President Emmanuel Macron. We discussed the situation in West Asia and agreed on the need to urgently restore safety and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. We will continue our close cooperation to advance peace and stability in the region and beyond,” Modi said in the post.

‘Military conflict cannot solve problem’: PM Modi

Holds wide-ranging talks with Austria’s Federal Chancellor

NEW DELHI, PTI

The world is going through a “very tense” situation impacting all nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, pitching for bringing lasting peace to Ukraine and West Asia as military conflict cannot solve any problem.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Austria’s Federal Chancellor Christian Stocker that focused on significantly ramping up bilateral ties in areas of trade, defence and infrastructure.

Following the talks, India and Austria signed six agreements, including one on counter-terror cooperation and another on setting up a fast-track mechanism to help Indian and Austrian companies wanting to invest in each other’s economies. A separate pact was signed for cooperation on military matters.

In their talks, Modi and Stocker extensively deliber-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Austria’s Chancellor Christian Stocker during a joint press statement in New Delhi. PTI

ated on the consequences of the conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine on the global economy and vowed to work jointly to mitigate them.

The Austrian Chancellor landed in New Delhi on Tuesday on a four-day trip. It is Stocker’s first official trip outside Europe and the first trip by an Austrian Chancellor to India after four decades.

“Today, the entire world is going through a very serious and tense situation, and its impact is being felt by all of us. In such a tense global environment, India and Austria are in agreement that solutions cannot be achieved through military conflict,” Modi said in his media statement.

tion) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Sakti Superintendent of Police Prafull Thakur said.

“Eight to ten individuals, including Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal, have been named in the FIR. If more persons are found responsible during the investigation, their names will be added,” Thakur told PTI.

Probe into the incident is underway and several reports are awaited, including post-mortem reports of the deceased and findings from the forensic science laboratory and the industrial health and safety department, he said.

“A technical team has also been formed to probe the cause of blast. Further sections will be added if required after all reports are received,” the SP said.

‘No Caste’ emerges as Telangana’s 10th largest community: Survey

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD DHNS

Among the findings of the Telangana Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) survey-2024, one of the most surprising revelations is the rise of a significant and varied population of individuals who classify themselves as having ‘No Caste’.

Nearly 12 lakh individuals, now the tenth-largest community in Telangana, declined to place themselves within conventional caste categories, opting instead for a civic identity that transcends them.

The data sketches a distinctive profile: predominantly urban, relatively well-educated, and heavily represented in professional and merit-based sectors.

The average “No Caste” respondent is a graduate-educated professional living in Hyderabad’s extended metropolitan region, typically employed in elite government services such as the IAS or IPS, or in urban

General castes gained more than SCs from agri schemes

As per the Telangana caste survey findings, a full 30% of the Telangana government’s total 2025-26 budgeted welfare expenditure were going to people in caste groups that were less backward than the state average, reports DHNS.

The Telangana government proposes to spend nearly Rs 30,000 crore every year in agricultural schemes such as Rythu

Bharosa and free electricity to farmers.

Around 15% of these beneficiaries were people from the general category, while only 12% were from the SCs.

The contrast is instructive when set against free bus travel for women, where 20% beneficiaries were SC women, and fewer than 10% were from the general category.

private sectors including software, BPO, and medicine.

While publicly caste-neutral, 43% of them claim to possess a caste certificate and may have previously accessed reservation benefits (13.5%). Their profile reflects a trajectory of mobility shaped by caste-linked pathways, now navigating institutional and professional spaces where caste neutrality

is selectively performed but not structurally absolute.

The Telangana SEEEPC Survey introduced a new classification category “No Caste” and assigned the code 999. Though grouped under the broader Other Castes (OC) or General category, this represents a sociologically distinct social group. This inclusion by the Telangana state govern-

Numbers game turns against government

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The 185 votes the Opposition secured in the Lok Sabha while opposing the introduction of a Constitution amendment Bill on delimitation and implementation of a 33% women’s quota appear to have effectively sealed its fate ahead of its scheduled passage on Friday afternoon.

The vote on the introduction of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, marked the first test for the Opposition after it declared on Wednesday that it would seek to defeat the draft legislation.

The government mustered 251 votes to clear the introduction stage, which requires only a simple majority. However, passage of the Bill will need a two-thirds majority.

With 360 votes required for passage if all 540 MPs are present and voting, the Opposition has already crossed the 181-vote mark needed to block the Bill. On Thursday, 436 MPs were present during voting.

MPs such as KC Venugopal (Congress), Dharmendra Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar (Trinamool Congress), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM), and N K Premachandran (RSP) spoke in the House against the introduction of the contentious Bill, while some others had submitted notices to oppose it.

At the outset, the gov-

ernment, with 293 MPs, required Opposition support to push the Bill through.

An analysis showed that 238 MPs — 232 from the I.N.D.I.A bloc representing 17 parties, along with three AAP MPs and one each from the AIMIM, ASP (Kanshiram), and the Akali Dal — had declared their opposition.

While it remained unclear whether the Akali Dal would ultimately vote or abstain, the other 237 MPs have made it clear they would vote against the Bill.

Several Trinamool MPs were absent during the vote. Party leaders said at least 20 of their 28 MPs would reach Delhi ahead of the final voting. The party’s initial reluctance to send MPs during the election period had drawn criticism from allies.

At a meeting of Opposition floor leaders chaired by Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, sources said they were unaware of any proposal to add a Schedule to the Bill to ensure a 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats across states, and would oppose such a move if introduced.

There is no constitutional guarantee for such a provision, sources said, adding that verbal assurances in Parliament would not suffice.

“This Bill is aimed at ensuring the BJP’s victory in the 2029 elections. We will not allow that,” a senior Opposition leader said.

BJP eyes gain irrespective of Bills’ passage

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

While it seems like the BJP is on shaky ground in Parliament as the three Bills it brought could be bulldozed if it cannot muster the numbers, government insiders have indicated that the party stands to gain irrespective of whether the proposed legislation, introduced on Thursday to expedite women’s reservation and delimitation, are passed or not.

The BJP has also shown confidence, asserting that the Bills, which require a two-thirds majority of those present in the House, will be passed.

A senior Cabinet minister indicated that the party would stand to gain politically in the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal Assembly polls in the short run, and has set its sights on the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

During his speech in Parliament, even PM Narendra Modi drove home the point. “If you oppose the Bills, we stand to gain, and if you help pass them, no one gains (politically).”

The aforementioned leader said: “Women have been voting for the BJP in many states it governs, and we want to stand for them and give them political space. Any party that stops that will face their wrath.”

The politician added: “And if the Bills are not passed, we will go to each state, Assembly, village, and gram sabha and tell women.”

The political gamble was already evident in the publicity blitz the BJP had mounted ahead of the Bills’ introduction — something uncharacteristic for a party that likes to have some intrigue around legislation.

Centre notifies women’s quota Act 2023

NEW DELHI, DHNS: On the day Lok Sabha started a debate on amending the existing 33% women’s quota law passed thirty-one months ago, the government on Thursday notified that the provisions of the ‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam’ came into force.

It was immediately not known why it was notified with effect from April 16 while Parliament was debating an amendment to the same law.

‘Absolutely bizarre’

“This is absolutely bizarre. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam passed in September 2023 has come into force today while amendments to it are being debated and will be voted upon tomorrow. Completely puzzled,” Congress Rajya Sabha Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh said on X.

Vedanta blast: FIR filed against Anil Agarwal

SAKTI (CHHATTISGARH), PTI: The Chhattisgarh police on Thursday registered an FIR against Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal and others in connection with the blast at the firm’s power plant in Sakti district that claimed 20 lives, an official said.

The explosion occurred on April 14 at the Vedanta plant in Singhitarai village when a steel tube carrying high-pressure steam from the boiler to the turbine burst, leaving several workers with severe burn injuries.

The incident claimed 20 lives and left 16 persons injured.

A case has been registered at Dabhra police station under sections 106 (causing death by negligence), 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery) and 3(5) (common in-



Anil Agarwal

No SC relief to Anil Ambani in fraud classification case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the pleas of beleaguered industrialist Anil Ambani against the Bombay High Court order allowing the proceedings initiated by banks against him and Reliance Communications Ltd to classify their bank accounts as fraudulent to continue as per the RBI’s mandate.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, however, allowed him to pursue his plea before the high court’s single-judge bench against the banks’ show-cause notices to declare the accounts as fraudulent.

It asked the single-judge bench to expeditiously decide Ambani’s plea against the show-cause notices issued by three banks.

The SC passed the order

while hearing three separate pleas filed by Ambani, who had challenged a February 23 order of a division bench of the HC.

The division bench had quashed a single-judge bench interim order that stayed proceedings initiated against him and Reliance Communications Ltd to classify their bank accounts as fraudulent.

The division bench had allowed the appeals filed by three public sector banks and the auditor firm BDO India LLP against the December 2025 interim order passed by a single bench.

The single-judge bench order had stayed all present and future action by Indian Overseas Bank, IDBI Bank and Bank of Baroda, noting that the action was based on a legally flawed forensic audit.



Anil Ambani

Pak Army chief holds talks with Iranian leadership in Tehran

Pakistan steps up efforts to bridge differences ahead of next round of talks

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir on Thursday held talks with the top Iranian leadership in Tehran as part of Islamabad's efforts to resolve the conflict between the US and Iran.

Munir, who is heading a high-level political-security delegation to Iran, landed in Tehran on Wednesday, becoming the first foreign military leader to visit the country since a two-week ceasefire was agreed between Iran and the US last week.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf met Chief of the Army Staff of the Pakistan Army Field Marshal Munir in Tehran on Thursday, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi was also part of the Pakistani delegation.

Ghalibaf had led the Iranian delegation to Pakistan for talks with the US over the weekend.

Munir also visited the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards, where he met its commander, according to IRNA.

During the meeting, he discussed with the commander of the IRCG the steps taken under the framework for ending the war and their recent talks in Tehran. The two sides also



Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir with Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf (right) before their official meeting in Tehran on Thursday. AFP

discussed the situation in the region and the prospects for peace and stability, Iranian official media reported. Munir stressed that ongoing efforts to end the war should continue.

On Wednesday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi received the Pakistani delegation. In a post on X, Araghchi said he was delighted to welcome Field Marshal Munir to Iran. "Expressed gratitude for Pakistan's gracious hosting of dialogue, emphasising that it reflects our deep and strong bilateral relationship. Our commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region remains strong—and shared," said Araghchi.

The delegation later held a meeting with Araghchi and other Iranian officials. Iran's state-run Press TV on Wednesday said the purpose of the visit

was to deliver a US message to the Iranian leadership and to plan the next round of negotiations. According to informed sources, Pakistan is working to bridge differences between Iran and the US on nuclear issues so that a draft can be agreed upon for finalisation at the second round of talks.

There are also reports that Iran may agree to third-party monitoring of its nuclear programme, possibly by four nations along with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Sources said that Munir may undertake a visit to the US and meet President Donald Trump to push for a final deal.

Earlier, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed that the exchange of messages with the US continued through Pakistan after the Islamabad talks ended without a deal.

China asks Iran to ensure free passage through Hormuz

BEIJING, PTI: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has asked Iran to ensure freedom and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, the first such call issued by Beijing since Tehran began to put a squeeze on the critical waterway amid its war with the US.

Wang sought guarantees of freedom and safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz during a phone call with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday. China, a close ally of Iran and the largest importer of Iranian oil, is also concerned about the energy crisis exacerbated by the US blockade of the strait.

The Strait of Hormuz is a

UNDER PRESSURE

■ More than 10,000 American troops are helping enforce the blockade on Iranian ports, and no ships have yet been boarded.

■ The US military says on Thursday that it is warning Iran-linked vessels that it could fire warning shots or escalate to other forms of force if they try to outrun the Navy.

■ The US House of Representatives rejects a resolution requiring President Donald Trump to withdraw forces from the war with Iran unless Congress authorises military action.

vital 55-km-wide maritime choke point between Iran and Oman, handling roughly 20% of global oil trade. "The current situation has reached a critical stage... a window for peace is opening," Wang told Araghchi. Wang said Iran, as a coastal state of the Strait of Hormuz, should have its sovereignty, security, and legitimate rights and interests respected and safeguarded. "At the same time, the freedom and safety of international navigation through the strait should also be ensured, and efforts to restore normal transit through the strait are a shared call of the international community," he said.

Europe may face jet fuel shortage within weeks: Energy agency

PARIS, AP/PTI: Europe has "maybe six weeks or so" of remaining jet fuel supplies, the head of the International Energy Agency said on Thursday in a wide-ranging interview, warning of possible flight cancellations "soon" if oil supplies remain blocked by the Iran war.

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol painted a sobering picture of the global repercussions of what he called "the largest energy crisis we have ever faced", stemming from the disruption of oil, gas and other vital supplies through the Strait of Hormuz. "In the past there was a group called Dire Straits. It's a dire strait now, and it is going to have major implications for the global economy. And the longer it goes, the worse it will be for economic growth and inflation around the world," he said.

The impact will be "higher petrol prices, higher gas prices, higher electricity prices," said Birol, speaking in his Paris office overlooking the Eiffel Tower. Economic pain will be felt unevenly and "the countries that will suffer the most will not be those whose voices are heard a lot. It will be mainly the developing countries—poorer nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America," said the Turkish economist and energy expert who has led the IEA since 2015.

But without a settlement of the Iran war that permanently reopens the Strait of Hormuz, "everybody is going to suffer", he added. "Some countries may be richer than others. Some countries may have more energy than others, but no country, no country is immune to this crisis," he said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Visitors watch from behind a barrier as penguins are led during a walk inside the Scientific Center in Kuwait City on Thursday. AFP

Map reveals exact location of Shakespeare's London home

► A newly discovered 17th-century map has shed a new light on William Shakespeare's London life, pinpointing for the first time the exact location of the only home he bought in the city, and where he may have worked on his final plays, AP/PTI reports from London.

Shakespeare scholar Lucy Munro, who found the document, said it supplies "extra bits of the jigsaw puzzle" of Shakespeare's life. And as with so many discoveries, it was partly due

to luck. "I came across it in the London Archives when I was looking for other things," Munro said. Historians have long known that Shakespeare bought property in 1613 near the Blackfriars Theatre, but the exact location was a mystery. A plan of the Blackfriars precinct found by Munro and disclosed by King's College London shows in detail Shakespeare's house, a substantial L-shaped dwelling carved from a former medieval monastery, including its gatehouse.

Nobel winner Mohammadi critical

► Iran's imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi is in "critical" condition after suffering a heart attack, AP/PTI reports.

Mohammadi's family and lawyers visited her in Zanjan prison twice in the past month and found her health to be in a dire state,

according to a statement by the Narges Mohammadi. She is weak, pale and has lost weight, the statement said. The report comes after Mohammadi suffered a heart attack in prison on March 24, according to a cardiologist she saw soon afterwards, the statement added.

Russia batters civilian areas in Ukraine, 18 dead

Trump condemns 'terrible' Russia strikes on Kyiv

KYIV, AP/PTI

Russia launched a vast missile and drone attack across Ukraine overnight and early Thursday morning, killing at least 18 people and shattering any thought that the temporary Easter truce announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin meant anything more permanent.

The strikes sent plumes of smoke over the capital, Kyiv, in the early morning and also targeted the port city of Odesa and the central-eastern city of Dnipro. Bone-rattling explosions from air-defence interceptors and ballistic missiles hitting their targets jarred residents awake.

Russia sent 659 drones and 44 missiles, including 19 ballistic ones, into Ukrainian



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (L) and Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten after signing a contract for the supply of drones in Middelburg on Thursday. AFP

cities from 7 am Wednesday to 7 am Thursday, according to the Ukrainian air force. It was the largest such barrage in months and one of the biggest of the war.

In Kyiv, four people were killed, including a 12-year-old boy, and 48 others were injured, according to the mayor, Vitali Klitschko. He added on social media at 5 am Kyiv time that Russian strikes had also injured four medics who were responding to an earlier attack on an office building. A drone punched a hole in the side of

a multi-storey apartment building shortly after Olena Kapustian, 41, began getting her 11-year-old son ready for school on Thursday. "It was like a comet," she said.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump condemned a massive Russian attack that killed at least 19 people across Ukraine, ripping through apartment buildings in the capital Kyiv.

Asked by reporters at the White House for his reaction to the barrage, Trump said: "I think it's terrible.

Pope blasts 'tyrants' ravaging Earth

BAMENDA (CAMEROON), AP/PTI

Pope Leo XIV denounced a "handful of tyrants" who are ravaging the Earth through war and exploitation, as he delivered a message of peace on Thursday in the epicentre of a separatist conflict considered one of the world's most neglected crises.

Leo travelled to the western Cameroonian city of Bamenda, where jubilant crowds clogged the roads, blowing horns and dancing. They were overjoyed that a pope had come so far to see them and place a global spotlight on the violence that has traumatised the region for nearly a decade.

Leo presided over a peace meeting involving a Mankon traditional chief, a Presbyterian moderator, an imam and a Catholic nun. The aim was to highlight the interfaith movement that has been seeking to end the conflict and care for its many victims.

In his remarks at St Joseph Cathedral, on land donated by the Mankon, Leo praised the peace movement and warned against allowing religion to be drawn into conflicts. It is a theme he has echoed amid the US-Israeli war in Iran and the religious justifications for it by US officials. "Blessed are the peacemakers!" he said. "But woe to those who manipulate religion and the very name of God for their own military, economic and political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth."

He called for a "decisive change of course" that leads away from conflict and the exploitation of land and people for military or economic gain.

"The world is being ravaged by a handful of tyrants, yet it is held together by a multitude of supportive brothers and sisters!"

It was not immediately clear if any of the separatist fighters, who announced a three-day pause in fighting to allow the pope safe passage, attended.

The pope was to celebrate a Mass for the people of Bamenda, located near Cameroon's western border with Nigeria, before returning to the capital, Yaounde.

COSMIC POWERHOUSE

Black hole jet power measured for first time

CAPE CANAVERAL, AP/PTI

For the first time, scientists have measured the instantaneous, extraordinary power of jets blasting from a black hole.

The jet power from this relatively nearby black hole—star system is equivalent to 10,000 suns, an international research team reported on Thursday. They also tracked the jet speed at roughly 355 million mph—about half the speed of light.

Located 7,200 light-years away, Cygnus X-1 features not only a black hole—the first ever identified more than half a century ago—but also a blue supergiant star, its constant companion.

A light-year is nearly 6 trillion miles (9.7 trillion km). The University of Oxford's Steve Prabu and his team based their findings on 18 years of high-resolution radio imaging obtained by a global telescope network. He conducted the research while at Australia's Curtin University, which led the study published in Nature Astronomy.

Prabu and his colleagues were able to measure the dynamic power of these "dancing jets", as he calls them, as they were pushed in opposite directions by the star's wind. The group based its calculations on how much the jets were bent by the stellar wind, as well as computer modelling.

Pak successfully test-fires anti-ship missile

KARACHI, PTI: The Pakistan Navy has successfully test-fired a locally developed ship-launched anti-ship missile, the military said on Thursday.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said the missile integrates a cutting-edge guidance system and advanced manoeuvrability, enabling it to "evade threats, adapt to dynamic conditions, and deliver with precision and lethality".

"Pakistan Navy successfully conducted a live weapon firing of an indigenously developed ship-launched anti-ship missile, accurately engaging its target at high speed over an extended range," it said. The ISPR added that the launch underscores the "fusion of technological excellence and operational expertise".

LeT co-founder Amir Hamza injured in Lahore gun attack

LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group's co-founder Amir Hamza suffered bullet injuries in an attack by motorcycle-borne unidentified gunmen in Lahore on Thursday, police said.

Hamza is regarded as LeT's second most important leader after its chief Hafiz Saeed, who has been lodged in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail since 2019 after being convicted in terror financing cases.

According to police, unidentified gunmen opened fire on a vehicle associated with private TV channel 24NewsHD, owned by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. The channel's religious programme host, Justice Nazir Ahmed Ghazi (ret'd), Nazir Ahmed Ghazi, and Hamza were in the vehicle.

"Two unidentified armed men riding a motorcycle opened fire on the white car

in which Ghazi and Hamza were travelling at Peco Road in Lahore near the TV channel's office. In the attack, Hamza suffered bullet injuries while Ghazi remained unhurt," police said.

Hamza was shifted to a hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, they said.

Police added that a probe has been launched into the incident, with the help of CCTV footage, to trace the attackers.

"TV host Justice Nazir Ghazi unhurt, Maulana Amir Hamza injured in Lahore gun attack. Unidentified gunmen opened fire on the vehicle of 24NewsHD TV channel's religious programme host Justice Nazir Ahmed Ghazi in Lahore, leaving Maulana Amir Hamza injured," the TV channel said in a statement on X. It said Ghazi hosts the programme 'Noor-e-Sehar' on 24NewsHD.

AI impact:
Wipro's campus hiring gradually drops in 4 years

BENGALURU, DHNS: The shift towards domain-specific hiring is real. Wipro's campus hiring has gradually come down in the last four years and the company recruited only 7,500 freshers in FY26 and in the fourth quarter alone, it recruited over 3,000 freshers. In FY25, it onboarded about 10,000 freshers.

The company did not set any hiring targets for FY27, considering the present volatility and demand conditions. "We should not shy away from saying that our campus intake over the last four years has gradually come down. That's reality," Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) Saurabh Govil said.

With the introduction of AI tools in every project, hiring across the IT industry has come down in recent quarters. The company implemented salary hikes for eligible employees effective March 1, 2026.

The company's attrition stood at 13.8% in the fourth quarter. Govil mentioned that this is a 20-quarter low. "So the environment (demand) outside is known to people," he said.

Wipro added 135 employees in the fourth quarter and for FY26, the company's total headcount increased by 8,810 employees. As of March 2026, the company's total headcount stood at 2,42,156.

Wipro announces Rs 15,000 cr share buyback at Rs 250 apiece

Net profit down 1.9%; revenue up 7.6% in Q4

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Revenue from operations

₹ 24,236

up 7.6%

IT services operating margin

17.3%

Decrease of 0.2% Y-o-Y

Voluntary attrition

13.8%

EARNINGS HIGHLIGHTS

Net profit in Q4

₹ 3,502 cr

Down 1.9%

Buyback for

₹ 15,000 cr

₹ 250 apiece

Revenue from operations

₹ 24,236

up 7.6%

Headcount added in FY26

8,810

in Q4 135

Added freshers in FY26

7,500

Despite headwinds, IT spending has shown resilience. Cloud, Data & AI continue to attract investments as they provide the infrastructure for future growth. Client priorities are shifting, with spending decisions increasingly tied to outcomes. Regardless of this environment, we continue to make decisive investments to navigate the AI-first world.

SRINI PALLIA, CEO & MD, Wipro

The company expects revenue from IT Services business segment to be in the range of **\$2,597 million to \$2,651 million** for the quarter ending **June 30, 2026**

Wipro buys select customer contracts of Alpha Net Consulting and its subsidiaries for **\$70.8 million**

Bengaluru-based IT services company Wipro, on Thursday, announced its largest share buyback worth Rs 15,000 crore. Promoters will be participating in the buyback and the company's last buyback was in 2023 for Rs 12,000 crore.

It will pay Rs 250 per share, a 19% premium over today's closing price of Rs 210.15 on the NSE.

"This is our largest buyback and we expect to buy back 5.7% of our paid up capital," said Aparna Iyer, Chief Financial Officer, Wipro, at the company's Q4 earnings press conference on Thursday.

She said the buyback will be completed in the first quarter of this fiscal, subject to shareholders' approval.

The company posted Rs 3,501.8 crore consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2026, which is a 1.9% decline compared to Rs 3,569.6 crore it posted in the year-ago period.

Its revenue from operations rose 7.6% to Rs 24,236.3 crore in the March quarter, compared to Rs 22,504 crore in the same quarter last year.

For full fiscal year FY26, the company posted a net profit of Rs 13,197.4 crore, a marginal 0.47% increase compared to FY25 and its revenue stood at Rs 92,624 crore, a 3.96% increase compared to Rs 89,088.4 crore in the previous fiscal year.

The company's total bookings in the fourth quarter stood at \$3,455 million, up by 3.2% Q-o-Q and its large-deal bookings were at \$1,440 mil-

lion. Wipro's IT services operating margin in the fourth quarter stood at 17.3%, a decrease of 0.2% Y-o-Y.

Speaking at the post-earnings press conference, Srini Pallia, CEO and MD said, geopolitical and policy disruptions have become the new normal. "Changing trade rules, tighter immigration policies, and prolonged conflicts continue to create uncertainties for industries and economies. Despite these headwinds, IT spending has shown resilience. Cloud, Data & AI continue to attract investments as they provide

the infrastructure for future growth. Client priorities are shifting, with spending decisions increasingly tied to outcomes. Regardless of this environment, we continue to make decisive investments to navigate the AI-first world," he said.

Q1FY27 guidance

The company expects revenue from its IT Services business segment to be in the range of \$2,597 million to \$2,651 million. This translates to sequential guidance of (-)2% to 0% in constant currency terms in the first quarter of FY27.

Pallia said they are seeing traction in the BFSI, Technology & Communications sectors, and that they are encouraged by the momentum the company is seeing in the AP-MEA region. He mentioned that Americas 1 delivered sequential and Y-o-Y growth, driven by strong performance in Consumer, Technology & Communications. Americas 2 declined sequentially and on a Y-o-Y basis. "The BFSI sector was impacted by delayed ramp-ups on some large deals that were closed earlier this year and by certain client-specific issues," he said.

India, New Zealand to sign free trade pact on April 27

New Zealand will invest \$20 billion in India

NEW DELHI, PTI

India and New Zealand will sign a free trade agreement (FTA) on April 27 here, an official said on Thursday. The free trade pact aims to provide tariff-free access to the island nation's market for domestic exporters' goods and will bring in \$20 billion in investment over the next 15 years.

The two countries on December 22 last year announced the conclusion of negotiations for the trade deal which aims at doubling bilateral trade to \$5 billion in the next five years.

The official said that the pact will be signed on April 27 in Bharat Mandapam after a meeting of the India-New Zealand Business Forum.

While India will get zero-duty market access on 100% of its exports, the agreement will eliminate or reduce tariffs on 95% of New Zealand's exports to India, including items ranging from wool, coal, wood, wine, to avocados and blueberries.

Key Highlights

■ 100% of India's exports to New Zealand will get zero-duty access

■ Zero or reduced tariffs on 95% of New Zealand's exports to India

■ No duty concessions on imports of dairy products like milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, and cheese; onions, sugar, spices, edible oils, and rubber from New Zealand

■ India to import wool, coal, wood, wine, avocados and blueberries from New Zealand

■ 5,000 visas annually and a stay of up to three years

■ New Zealand to give a temporary employment entry visa pathway for Indian professionals in skilled occupations

TCS incident: Wipro says they review policies, execution on regular basis

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Nashik incident getting wider attention, particularly among the IT industry, companies are reviewing their policies regularly. During Q4 earnings press conference, when *DH* asked whether Wipro will review or revisit its own policy frameworks and POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) audit, Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) Saurabh Govil said that the company has a robust process of ombuds policy. The POSH committee operates independently and reports to an independent audit committee.

Wipro has established an independent Ombuds function consisting of a Chief Ombudsperson and full-time Ombudspersons. Govil said they are very confident of the company's robust process today and they review it regularly. "It's not because of this incident (TCS Nashik). We review it regularly," he said.

Govil also added that they review POSH compliance closely every quarter.

When asked about the impact of West Asia conflict on the company's sectors or business, Srini Pallia, CEO and Managing Director, Wipro, said that the company's employees are safe and operations continue to run and that they are making sure everything runs as per the process.

"There is no specific impact in terms of how we deliver to our clients. From clients' perspective, some of the clients are thinking whether they should hold on to spending or should they relook at projects and so on. We have not seen a significant impact right now, but we will see how the whole situation shapes up," the CEO said.



Saurabh Govil

Renault bets on EVs, hybrids to win over Indian buyers

CHENNAI, REUTERS

Renault is betting on electric vehicles and hybrids to win over buyers in the world's third-largest car market, global CEO Francois Provost said on Thursday, as the French carmaker steps up its product push to regain market share.

The company wants India to rank among the Renault brand's top three global markets by 2030, and aims to capture about 5% of market share in the country by the end of the decade, Provost told reporters at an event in India's southern auto hub of Chennai.

Renault, which does not have a presence in the US and China, expects the Indian market will play a key role in developing new models and boosting sales for the French carmaker globally.

"Our ambition goes beyond 'India for India' in growth and product," Provost said, adding he sees the country as an export and tech hub, "and a strategic asset on a global scale" where it will develop products and technologies for the world.

Sales of cars in India are set to touch 6 million by 2030, up 36% from 2025, S&P Global Mobility data showed, with a rapid increase in demand for SUVs and premium vehicles - a shift Provost is betting on.

Renault entered India in 2005 and in 2012 it launched its popular Duster SUV helping the carmaker achieve a market share of 4%. But over time, Renault's share dwindled and is less than 1% currently, industry data showed.



Renault Group Global CEO Francois Provost, right, and the company's India CEO Stephane Deblaise during the unveiling of the company's India expansion plan on Thursday.

The automaker, which is making a comeback in the South Asian country, is betting on its electrified vehicles to win over consumers, with Provost expecting EVs and hybrids to account for about half of its sales in India by 2030.

Renault currently builds most cars in India on its compact vehicle platform and it recently introduced a modular platform on which it has built the Duster SUV.

The new modular platform will allow Renault to introduce vehicles of different sizes with a high level of local content, allowing it to price them competitively for the domestic market and exports, the company's India chief Stephane Deblaise said at the same event.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No. EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-3/e-Tender/2026-27/ 104, Dated: 15.04.2026

3rd Call Short Term e-Tender Notification

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under KRDC for the year 2025-26 Under Yadgir Taluka-29580/CALL-3 Total 1 (One) works Tender Called 2) Amount Put to Tender: Maximum Rs.300.00 Lakhs 3) Contractor Eligible Details: Civil Class-II & Above 4) Tender Processing Fee and EMD Details: Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: 18.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) 6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/ Clarification: 21.04.2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of the tender in e-KPPP portal: 22.04.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) 8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid: 24.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) 9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid: 27.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) 10) For More Details Contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir. 11) Website Address: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir.

DIP/YDG/27/KSMC&A/2026-27

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI

No:KMP/HS/SWM/PK/BREAKFAST/2026-27 DATE: 13.04.2026

:: KPPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

Job Description: Providing morning breakfast to sanitation workers under general fund for the year 2026-27. From the eligible bidders as per the Karnataka Transparency in public procurement act 2000.

The tender recalled under e-procurement and the details can be availed in e-procurement portal.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimate Amount in Lakhs	Tender Last Date and Technical Bid opening Date
01	Supply and delivery of Morning Breakfast to Sanitation Workers in Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike 2026-27. (Package-01) INDENT NO : DMA/2026-27/SE7688	Rs.62.30/-	Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications Date:28.04.2026 and Timing 04.00 PM
02	Supply and delivery of Morning Breakfast to Sanitation Workers in Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike 2026-27. (Package-02) INDENT NO : DMA/2026-27/SE7692	Rs.58.00/-	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders Date:29.04.2026 and Timing 04.30PM Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid Date:30.04.2026 and Timing 04.35PM
03	Supply and delivery of Morning Breakfast to Sanitation Workers in Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike 2026-27. (Package-03) 1. INDENT NO : DMA/2026-27/SE7695	Rs.68.10/-	Last Date and Time for Financial Bid Date:02.05.2026 and Timing 11.30AM

* For more details about EMD is availed in e-procurement portal. * For more information Contact Assistant Executive Engineer (Env) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi * Web Site :Eproc.Karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer) (Env)
City Corporation Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/36/KSMC&A/2026-27

Office of Deputy Commissioner, Chickaballapur District,
Chickaballapur
(District Urban Development Cell)
E-Mail :- ka.chickaballapur.dudc@gmail.com, Ph:08156-277005
NO.DUDC/AMN-4/CR/09/2026-27 D:09.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, District urban development cell, Chikkaballapur invites tenders from the eligible tenderers, detailed in the table below. Name of Work: (1) Providing and supplying of Electrical sewing machine to Sidlaghatta CMC under amruth Nagarothana municipality 4(DMA/2025-26/IND5722/Call-2) Amount put to tender: Rs. 4.99 Lakhs (2) Providing and supplying of Gas Geyser to ST peoples in Gowribidanur CMC under amruth Nagarothana municipality 4(DMA/2025-26/IND5719/Call-2) Amount put to tender: Rs. 20.97 Lakhs (3) Providing and supplying of RO water filter to PKS in Bagepalli TMC under amruth Nagarothana municipality 4(DMA/2025-26/IND5720/Call-2) Amount put to tender: Rs. 11.97 Lakhs (4) Purchase of Ear Hearing Aid for Specially disable in Bagepalli TMC Under Amruth Nagarothana Phase-4 (DMA/2025-26/IND5650/Call-2) Amount put to tender: Rs. 2.97Laks. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement websites https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and calendar of events as below. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement websites https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and calendar of events as below. (1) Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: 24.04.2026, 5:30 PM. (3) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: 28.04.2026, 11:00 AM. (4) Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: 04.05.2026, 11:00 AM. (1) Tenderers must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. (2) Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, DUDC, FA-07, DC office complex, Chikkaballapur during working hours. Any change in calendar of events (if any) will be published in e-procurement portal only. No Paper notification will be given.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District urban development cell, Chickaballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:27/KSMCA/2026-27

Mysuru Silk
KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Ph: 080-25586550, 25586402 Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No. KSIC/PR/ITEMS/2026-27 Date: 16.04.2026

NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers/ Dealers for the below detailed items & work:

Sl. No.	Particulars	EMD (In Rs.)	Last Date for uploading the Tender	Technical Bids Opening Date
1	Tender for Procurement of 222 Tins (15 Kgs. each) of Coconut oil for a duration of six months for KSIC, SWF Mysuru and SWU Channapatna	28,500	02.05.2026 by 03.00 PM	04.05.2026 at 03.30 PM.
2	Tender for Supply, Installation and commissioning of Two Nos Anti Theft Machine Alarm Systems for KSIC Showrooms	10,400	02.05.2026 by 03.00 PM	04.05.2026 at 03.30 PM.

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/. Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal - helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)

DIPR/CP/27/AKAR/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/PR/HSN/EEE(O)/DCA/AEE-1/HNPS-30/2026-27/208-10 Date: 15.04.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL, Transmission (Projects) Circle, Hassan, invites bids on Electronic mode for conducting 220 & 66kV line preliminary and detailed survey using modern survey techniques as follows against the following bid enquiry number.
Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/2025-26/SE2352/CALL-2
For conducting detailed survey using modern survey techniques for construction of incoming 220kV lines for a distance of approximately 100 Kms and 66kV outgoing lines on 110kV DC/MC towers approximate 110 kms (Including strengthening of existing 66KV lines) to the proposed 2x150 MVA, 220/66kV R/s and 1x12.5 MVA 66/11kV S/s at Kalkere village in Channarayana Taluk in Hassan District. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16.04.2026 at 2:00 PM. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Prasanna Bhavana,
2rd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan - 573201.

Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi

Ref. VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/T-728/735/737/2025-26/228 Dtd.15-04-2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites e-tenders (two cover systems) for the following works through e-procurement tendering mode.

Sl No	Name of the tenders	Estimated Amount	EMD Amount
1	T-728: Tender for Set Up the Smart Classes to Govt. Kannada Higher Primary School Santibastwada, Govt. Kannada Primary School at, Valmiki Nagar, Govt. Kannada High School at Theerthkunda and Govt. Marathi Higher Primary School at Koulapur	28,33,400/-	56,700/-
2	T-735: Tender for procurement of equipment for establishment of AICTE Idea Lab at Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, UBDTCE, Davangere	59,84,000/-	90,000/-
3	T-737: Tender for Procurement of NRE Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) Technology 3D Printer to Dept. of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, UBDTCE, Davangere under VGST-K-FIST - L2 and VTU Matching Grants	17,00,000/-	42,500/-

Last date for receipt of tender: 23-04-2026 up to 2.30 pm. Date of opening of tender: 24-04-2026 at 4.00 p.m. The details regarding participation in the E-Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU website: www.vtu.ac.in and e-procurement portal website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/Belgavi/108/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27



10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

“We may want to back our pace bowlers more over the spin and let our batters who are really good at playing pace face their (KKR) pace bowlers.

GLENN PHILLIPS
GT BATTER



IPL BRIEF

CSK's Khaleel ruled out

► Chennai Super Kings pacer Khaleel Ahmed has been ruled out of the IPL due to a quadriceps injury, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Ahmed, who was part of all the five games CSK have played thus far, reported pain in his right hip during the previous game against KKR on April 14.

“It is a grade 2 tear and the rehab will take at least 10-12 weeks,” said an IPL source.

Bhagat replaces MI's Ankolekar

► Mumbai Indians on Thursday named Krish Bhagat as a replacement for injured Atharva Ankolekar for the remainder of the Indian Premier League, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Krish, the 21-year-old right-handed all-rounder who represents Punjab, brings versatility as a right-arm fast bowler and can contribute with the bat as a lower order batsman.

He was part of Mumbai Indians trials for the past two years, having played for the Reliance in the DY Patil T20 cup in 2026 and has been a support bowler with the team since pre-season this year.

SRH's Payne ruled out

► Sunrisers Hyderabad were on Thursday dealt another injury setback with England left-arm seamer David Payne ruled out of the remainder of the IPL season due to an ankle injury, reports New Delhi from PTI.

Payne featured in the first two matches for SRH.

Punjab extend Mumbai's misery

Arshdeep, Prabhsimran, Shreyas take PBKS to the top

MUMBAI, PTI

Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer struck fluent fifties as Punjab Kings' winning run continued with a seven-wicket hammering of Mumbai Indians, who suffered a fourth consecutive defeat in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Even as Quinton de Kock, with a brilliant 112 not out, and Naman Dhir (50) bailed Mumbai Indians out in the first half with a robust 132-run third-wicket stand, the hosts' 195/6 was never challenging enough on a docile track against the rampant Punjab batters.

Prabhsimran made a wicketless Jasprit Bumrah (0/41) and MI pay for a regulation drop early, smashing a strokeful 80 not out off 31 balls (11x4s, 2x6s), while skipper Iyer was in his elements, notching up his third fifty in as many outings with a 66 off 35 balls (5x4s, 4x6s), as the duo stitched a sturdy 139-run stand for the third wicket.



Punjab Kings' Prabhsimran Singh hammered 80 not out off just 39 balls on a belter to charge his team to victory over Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday. AFP

Chasing 196, PBKS went over the line with 21 balls to spare, scoring 198/3 as MI bowlers continued to disappoint collectively, with AM Ghazanfar's 2/31 being the only performance of note.

Punjab were quick off the blocks as the first over from Deepak Chahar yielded 21 runs, putting MI on the back-foot.

A pivotal moment arrived in the third over when Bumrah, placed at short third, spilled a regulation chance off Hardik Pandya when Prabhsimran was only on 11.

Ghazanfar dismissed Priyansh Arya (15) and Cooper Connolly (17) to give Mumbai two elusive wickets in the powerplay, but the hosts could never capitalise on those breakthroughs.

Prabhsimran unleashed his rich repertoire of strokes, hitting a flurry of fours, while Iyer relished batting on his home track of the Wankhede Stadium, dispatching the bad balls with ease.

Their 139-run stand came from only 67 balls as Prabhsimran and Iyer eclipsed the first-innings heroics of de Kock and Dhir.

In the 16th over, a powerful pull from Iyer went through Dhir's hands for a six and the Punjab skipper sent the next from Shardul Thakur flying into the stands. However, a flick off the pads in the air gave Dhir another chance, which he converted with a fine diving catch in the front.

Earlier, a belligerent century from Quinton de Kock (112 not out) and a gritty 50 from Naman Dhir pulled MI out of doldrums and lifted them to an under-par 195/6. Confined to warming the bench so far, de Kock replaced Rohit Sharma and smacked his third IPL

hundred to lead an inspirational fightback for the troubled Mumbai Indians, who had slipped to 15/2 in three overs.

The veteran Protea batter was in his elements during his unbeaten ton -- a 60-ball 112 not out (8x4s, 7x6s) and his first in IPL since 2022 -- clobbering the ball powerfully on the leg-side and picking boundaries with precision and terrific timing on the off.

Arshdeep Singh (3/22) swung the ball precariously and bowled immaculate lengths to snaffle two key wickets early on, while a third came late in the innings.

After beating Ryan Rickelton (2) persistently with deliveries that swung away, Arshdeep had the South African caught at deep square leg.

No emotions, just business, says Ngidi on return to Chinnaswamy

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

South African pace ace Lungi Ngidi is set for a return to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium when Delhi Capitals take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Saturday, a side he turned out in the 2025 season during their first-ever IPL coronation.

However, Ngidi said there was no room for any emotional narrative and it is going to be strictly business come the match day.

“I don't take emotions into the game. That is a very bad place to be in. When I play, no matter who I play, it is purely business. Now I represent Delhi Capitals and obviously I was released by RCB, so my journey with RCB ended there,” said Ngidi in a media interaction.

“Yes I had a great time at RCB and we won the title. I also got to play. But in the end, I was released, so yeah



Lungi Ngidi

strictly business,” he added.

Ngidi has produced miserly spells this season, picking up five wickets in four games at an economy rate of 8.04.

While Ngidi did not reveal any specific plans for RCB's “most consistent” batter Virat Kohli, the 30-year-old admitted that he was wary of their ultra-aggressive batters.

“Well, if I tell my plans, it would defeat the purpose. But as a bowler, you do come up with plans for batters. You try to look at certain things or technical things a batter may be doing. Or how he has been dismissed the most.

“Kohli is probably the most consistent batter in that line-up. So you've obviously got to be aware of him. But obviously, having been there in that team, I know the rest of the batters as well, and they're just as dangerous.”

Ngidi, who had a brilliant T20 World Cup this year, also expressed gratitude towards MS Dhoni for his guidance early on in his career during his Chennai Super Kings stint.

“I was very young, so to have a captain (Dhoni) who was not very emotional, helped me a lot in terms of keeping calm. He backed me and also played me. In my first season, I was opening the bowling in the final.”

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

“I think ageing like a fine wine, so that's all I can say,” replied Bhuvneshwar Kumar when Kiwi commentator Simon Doull asked him about his high fitness levels even at the age of 36.

The right-arm pacer was speaking right after his figures of 3/27, along with Josh Hazlewood's 1/20 and Rasikh Dar's 4/24, had set up Royal Challengers Bengaluru's five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants here on Wednesday.

When Bhuvneshwar picked up Chennai Super Kings' Ayush Mhatre bowling from the Rahul Dravid end at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on April 5, he became the first fast bowler ever to pick 200 IPL wickets and only the second man in the league after Yuzvendra Chahal to achieve the enormous feat.

He is also the only pacer in the top-five IPL wicket-takers



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Bhuvneshwar Kumar is the only pacer to feature in the top-five IPL wicket-takers' list. AFP

ers list. However, by his own admission, he said that the milestone was something for the future to look back after retirement rather than talking about it while still going strong.

“It feels great when you achieve something like this. But for me, this is more to think back on when I retire, but happy to see the reward for what

you (I) have done for so many years,” Bhuvneshwar said.

But then, the numbers get scarier and it makes you want to talk about him. No one in IPL's history has picked up more wickets than Bhuvneshwar (83) in the first six overs.

The 36-year-old has also bowled a whopping 1,317 dot balls in the powerplay phase,

out of the 395 overs he has sent down so far. Converted, it comes to 219.3 overs of dots. To put that in perspective -- the next best is Trent Boult with 144.4 overs.

To achieve these numbers in a tournament, which largely rolls out flat surfaces, is more than just commendable.

However, Bhuvneshwar is not just a powerplay operator. The Meerut man (97) is five wickets away from topping the wicket-taking column at the death (overs 16-20), only behind Dwayne Bravo's 102.

While these numbers certainly add to Bhuvneshwar's legacy, his greatness is in his ability to keep evolving while adding variations. The full repertoire was on full display against LSG.

While Player of the Match Hazlewood continued to hit the back of a length and cause damage, Bhuvneshwar unfurled his smarts to come up with an equally impressive spell, underlining his hunger to keep mastering the craft.

“Bhuv summed up the con-

ditions in the first over, and then there were a few field changes. The communication within the bowling group, in particular, especially from Bhuv, who bowls first up, is a real strength of ours,” Hazlewood said after the game.

When the surface is tacky or on the slower side, offering spongy bounce, like Chinnaswamy did on Wednesday, Bhuvneshwar bowled short of a length and cramped the batters for room.

While he contained batters in the first six, he picked up three wickets in a span of five balls at the death, all owing to his variety. He bowled a low full toss to Rishabh Pant which was hit straight to Phil Salt. He then bowled a wide one to George Linde and followed it up with an inch perfect yorker to Mohammed Shami.

Bhuvneshwar's skills to swing the ball are apparent but his ability to hit the right areas more often than not is what keeps him relevant.

Govt should leave cricket affairs to domain experts

Other Olympic sports in Karnataka are in crying need for attention

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Building cricket stadiums, some of them mega-sized, seems to have become a new trend among several state governments. At the moment, at least four states, with Karnataka being the latest, have either proposed or begun constructing new venues in various parts of the country.

In a country that has historically frowned upon spending on sports infrastructure as a waste of resources, this might seem like a welcome change. But is it really?

Consider the Karnataka government's approach. It has used the tragic June 4 stampede, which left 11 RCB fans dead, outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium to justify the need for a bigger and better venue. While the intention may be sound, instead of persuading the Karnataka State Cricket Association, which governs the sport in the state, to build a new stadium, the government has chosen to take matters into its own hands. It plans to build a stadium in Anekal, about a 50-minute drive from the city center. The proposed capacity is 80,000, estimated to cost over Rs 900 crore.

Having stadiums on the outskirts does have advantages. Open land provides the space needed for large, modern infrastructure. Bigger area allows for ample parking, which helps reduce traffic congestion in surrounding areas. They also make security management easier, improving the overall



match-day experience. Many recently built cricket stadiums in cities such as Ahmedabad, Pune and Rajkot largely follow this model. Notably, these venues were developed by their respective state associations with significant financial support from the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Despite criticism over its opaque functioning and occasionally allowing the Indian team to be used for political mileage, the BCCI remains one of the most professionally run sports organisations in the country. A key reason for its success is the relative absence

of political interference in cricket administration, which has allowed the sport to grow beyond one's imagination. It is important that this independence is protected.

The speed with which the state government has moved forward with the new stadium is striking. It issued a tender soon after the KSCA invited expressions of interest to expand the Chinnaswamy Stadium. While this efficiency is unusual, it also exposes misplaced priorities, especially when other sports are in crying need for attention.

Karnataka's flagship multipurpose venue, Sree Kan-

teerava Stadium, built ahead of the 1997 National Games, is now outdated and inadequate by modern standards. Several sports infrastructure initiatives announced in the state budgets are yet to take off. Some are stalled, while others are progressing at snail's pace. Most Olympic sports depend heavily on government assistance, whether for training infrastructure or financial incentives. In this context, focusing on a sport that is already self-sufficient appears needless indulgence.

There is also the question of how matches will be hosted at the new venue. The BCCI allocates matches to the KSCA, purportedly on rotational basis, and the association is free to choose where to host them. However, it is unclear why the KSCA would shift matches away from its existing stadium. While the government could pressure the association to use the new facility, such a move risks conflict. If the

situation is not resolved amicably, there is a real possibility that the BCCI could choose not to allot matches to the KSCA at all.

Wasn't this evident when BCCI took away the women's ODI World Cup matches last year from Chinnaswamy and didn't allot any matches during the T20 World Cup this year due to a stand-off between the state government and the KSCA?

With no steady income, maintaining the facility itself may become a huge financial burden for the government as it requires, for the size of the Chinnaswamy stadium, an annual expenditure of nearly Rs 1 crore for the upkeep of the stadium, including salaries for ground staff and outsourced labourers, expenses on water, flood light, fuel, sand, among others. And it would easily cost three times to maintain the proposed stadium.

In such a scenario, the stadium could well turn into a costly white elephant.

'Substitute' Kohli makes an instant impact

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

T20 cricket has its own different demands. Each of the 240 balls is an event and every passage of play is a contest. And with age becoming one of sport's most unforgiving barriers, it takes a toll on the body both physically and mentally, leading to an athlete's drop in intensity.

However, for some, that script does not hold good. Virat Kohli (in pic), 37, did not take the field during Mumbai Indians' chase with an ankle issue in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's previous game.

On the eve of the Lucknow Super Giants match, Kohli only batted for a short duration with a strap around his leg. Once he was done with batting, Kohli then did some running drills in what seemed like a fitness test.

On Wednesday, the master tactician scored a 34-ball 49 on a tricky Chinnaswamy surface as Royal Challengers Bengaluru wrapped up the 147-run chase with 29 balls to spare.

Kohli, who was introduced as an Impact Substitute for the first time in his career, said that he was happy with his intensity despite not being 100% fit.

“I'm still not 100% fit. My knee was a bit sore last game. Even health-wise, I've been under the weather for four or five days now. Just getting back up to my best,” Kohli said after the game.

“I started off well today, so I was happy with my intensity. Again, I would have liked to carry on and finish the game off,” he added.

Kohli was off the blocks early, scoring 34 off his first 14 deliveries, using the hardness of the new ball on a tacky surface.



IN BRIEF

Trisha nets brace for Kemp

► Trisha Iyer fired a brace in Kemp Junior FC's 6-0 rout of Tenchnico FF in the KSFA A Division Women's League Championships at the BFS here on Thursday. **Results:** Kemp Junior FC: 6 (Nishika Chawala 3rd, Janhavi Reddy 10th, Pragya Kumari Thakur 23rd, Aparajita 42nd, Trisha Iyer 64th, 70+1st) bt Technico FF: 0; SRC Yamakanamardi: 3 (Vasundhara Chavan 47th, Sakshi Ganesh Chitagi 50th, Nihitha Karchi 70+3rd) bt Reds United FC: 0.

Arjun, Aditya win gold

► Arjun Singh combined with Aditya Singh to win the men's doubles 5.0 event at the US Open Pickleball Championship by getting the better of J Meode and W Lin (9-11, 11-2, 11-7) in the final in Naples, Florida, reports PTI from New Delhi. Another Indian pair to bag a medal was Panth Thakkar and Atharva Sheth, who took home a silver in the 4.5 men's doubles category, after losing the summit clash to Caian Appel and Michael Van Dusen 8-11, 9-11.

Joshna, Veer advance

► Veteran Joshna Chinappa and Veer Chotrani advanced in the Hamburg Open squash, while compatriots Velavan Senthilkumar and Tanvi Khanna bowed out in the opening round, reports PTI. Former women's world No 10 Joshna eased past local challenger Saskia Beinhard 11-4, 11-5, 11-4, while men's world No. 47 Chotrani beat Spain's Ivan Perez 11-8, 11-9, 11-8 in the PSA Bronze-level event.

FO prize purse increased

► French Open prize money has increased by about 10% for an overall pot of 61.7 million euros (\$72.1 million), reports AP from Paris. The total amount is up 5.3 million euros from last year. Play begins on Sunday, May 24 at Roland Garros in western Paris. Men's and women's singles champions each receive 2.8 million euros and the runners-up 1.4 million euros. Semifinalists earn 750,000 euros and first round losers get 87,000 euros.

Amee clinches Asian silver

► India's Amee Kamani failed to build on the promising start and went down 2-6 to Filipino Rhaki Constantino in the women's gold medal clash of the Asian Heyball Championships in Shah Alam, Malaysia on Wednesday, reports DHNS. The Indian ace, who began on a strong note in the race-to-6 final, failed to maintain the tempo and gave her rival a look-in. Not looking a gift horse in the mouth, Constantino capitalised on Amee's largesse to take a vice-like grip on the proceedings. The Filipino, who had also accounted for Amee in the first round, gave the Indian little chance. **Result: Women: Final:** Rhaki Constantino (Phi) bt Amee Kamani (Ind) 6-2.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: GT vs KKR (7:30 pm).
LIVE on Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.

1st WT20: South Africa vs India (9:30 pm).
LIVE on Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.

FOOTBALL

ISL: Chennaiyin FC vs SC Delhi (5 pm), Odisha FC vs Mohammedan (7:30 pm).
LIVE on Sony Sports Ten 2, FanCode.

IFL: Namdhari FC vs Chanmari FC (6:30 pm).
LIVE on Sony Sports Ten 5, Sony LIV.

TENNIS

ATP 500 Barcelona Open: Quarterfinals (1:30 pm).
LIVE on FanCode.

Bayern stave off Real fightback

Arsenal hold on to slim first-leg lead to reach semis

MUNICH, AFP

Late strikes from Luis Diaz and Michael Olise sealed a dramatic 4-3 win for Bayern Munich over Real Madrid on Wednesday, clinching a 6-4 aggregate victory and setting up a semifinal with holders Paris Saint-Germain. The tie was level at the break in the second leg after a scintillating opening half, with record 15-time European champions Real going ahead three times on the night. Bayern won 2-1 last week in the Spanish capital, but Arda Guler pounced on a loose Manuel Neuer pass to put the visitors ahead after just 34 seconds at the Allianz Arena. He scored again from a free-kick after Aleksandar Pavlovic equalised. Harry Kane put Bayern back ahead in the tie only for Kylian Mbappe to restore parity overall when he put Madrid 3-2 up before half-time. Eduardo Camavinga was sent off for a second yellow card with four minutes left and Bayern pushed forward, Diaz blasting into the corner from outside the box after a crucial deflection. With Real pressing for an equaliser, Bayern broke and Olise curled in a magnificent shot to rubberstamp their tick-

et to the last four, where Luis Enrique's reigning European champions await. Tempers boiled over after the final whistle with Guler picking up a straight red for confronting the referee. For the first time in Real's long Champions League history, their starting XI did not contain a single Spanish player. Jude Bellingham, who impressed off the bench in the first leg, was one of four changes to Alvaro Arbeloa's line-up for the visitors. Neuer, widely lauded after a vintage performance in Madrid, gifted Real an opener. The Bayern goalkeeper miscued a pass directly to Guler, who floated a first-touch shot into the unguarded goal in the first minute. Bayern looked stunned but struck back almost immediately when Pavlovic headed in a Kimmich corner after Real goalkeeper Andriy Lunin failed to read the flight of the ball. The match had barely time to settle before Real were ahead once more thanks to a Guler goal, with Neuer again null at his best. The Turkey international whipped a free-kick into the top corner which Neuer got a hand to but was unable to keep out.



Bayern Munich's Harry Kane celebrates after scoring against Real Madrid during their Champions League quarterfinal second leg clash at the Allianz Arena in Munich on Wednesday. REUTERS

The match continued to swing back and forth before the break, as Kane struck first before Mbappe responded by getting himself on the scoresheet. Kane slotted clinically into the bottom corner in the 38th minute to again haul Bayern level on the night -- and ahead in the tie -- before Mbappe ran onto a Vinicius Junior pass and slotted home to level the tie 4-4 on aggregate.

With Real regularly cutting into Bayern's high line, coach Vincent Kompany responded by introducing the pace of Alphonso Davies at the interval. Both sides traded chances in the second half, with Olise particularly dangerous, forcing a fingertip save from Lunin with 20 minutes left. Camavinga came on midway through the half but picked up two yellow cards in quick suc-

cession to leave his team a man down in the closing stages. It proved a turning point as Bayern struck three minutes later when Diaz's effort from outside the box took a touch off Eder Militao and flashed beyond Lunin. Arsenal survive Arsenal reached the Champions League semifinals after riding their luck in a nervous

goalless draw against Sporting Lisbon that clinched a 1-0 aggregate victory on Wednesday. Mikel Arteta's team were well below their best in the quarterfinal second leg at the Emirates Stadium. But they held onto their slender first-leg advantage as Sporting failed to make them pay for the latest in a growing list of angst-ridden performances.

SEMIS LINE-UP

■ PSG vs Bayern Munich

■ Atletico Madrid vs Arsenal

■ Note: The ties will be played over two legs on April 28/29 and May 5/6.

Mom's endearing presence behind Vaishali's triumph

Candidates winner stands out with her quiet confidence & strong values

NEW DELHI, PTI

The newly-crowned Candidates champion R Vaishali, a soft-spoken and unassuming presence often seen with her mother Nagalakshmi by her side, stands out for her quiet intensity, shaped by strong values and a grounded upbringing, the kind of Indian sports person who lets her game do the talking. What truly shapes her is the ecosystem she comes from -- a deeply committed chess family that has quietly nurtured excellence without seeking the spotlight, and in that understated, almost self-effacing journey lies her greatest strength. On Wednesday, Vaishali, the lowest-rated player in the eight-woman field at the Candidates tournament in Paphos, Cyprus, let her quiet game do the talking, springing a fine victory over Kateryna



The constant presence of her mother Nagalakshmi (right) by her side kept R Vaishali in good stead during the Candidates tournament in Paphos, Cyprus. FIDE

Lagno to seal a place in the World Championship showdown against Ju Wenjun later this year. For long, Vaishali, 24, had lived in the shadow of her younger and more celebrated brother, R Praggnanandhaa, who had qualified for the Open section of the Candidates tournament, but a string of underwhelming performances knocked him out of contention early in the 14-round competition, ending his hopes of challenging D Gukesh for the world title later this year. Even after Praggnanandhaa's chances faded, the spotlight never quite turned to Vaishali, who is deeply close to her brother and would have felt his disappointment, perhaps even her own dip in morale. But the quiet presence of her mother, always by their side in a saree and with a calm, unreadable expression, seemed enough to steady her and remind her that not all was lost. With 8.5 points, the gifted Vaishali sealed the title this time, a step up from last year in Toronto when Vaishali had qualified for the Candidates but finished joint second, narrowly missing out on a shot at the World Championships of different

WADA prez: India has a serious doping problem

NEW DELHI, PTI

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Witold Banka on Thursday said "nobody is blind" to India's serious doping problem but acknowledged that there have been "sincere efforts" to address it, which includes active participation in the INTERPOL-backed 'Operation Upstream' targeting global drug suppliers. At the end of a whirlwind tour, during which he met Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) chief Anant Kumar, sports secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, and CBI top brass, Banka said he would be heading back with "optimism" about India's future. India has been topping the WADA's list of dope offenders for three consecutive years with the highest positivity rate among major nations. The country is scheduled to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and is aspiring to become an Olympic host in 2036. "The biggest producer of Performance Enhancing Drug (PEDs) and steroids is in India. There is a serious problem and nobody is blind to it but at the same time, India has aspirations of hosting the World Championships of different



World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) president Witold Banka (right) and WADA Director of Intelligence & Investigations Gunter Younger address a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. AFP

sports and also the Olympics, which is obviously not possible without WADA compliance," he told PTI in an interview after an elaborate press conference. "To realise that vision, there are efforts to address this problem and I believe the efforts have been sincere. I would be taking a lot of optimism with me about what the future holds," he said. Speaking about 'Operation Upstream', which has resulted in 250 raids, seizure of 90 tons of PEDs, which is approximately "1.8 billion doses" of banned drugs that were prevented from entering the market, and closure of 88 illegal laboratories across 20 countries, Banka said details of this would be shared in due course.

'NDTL to be assessed' World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Witold Banka on Thursday said that the performance of India's National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) here would be assessed in the next few months, a process that the NADA described as routine, reports PTI from New Delhi. "Assessment of results in India will be done in the next few months," he said. Established in 1990, the NDTL is one of only 29 WADA-accredited laboratories worldwide.

'Govt to criminalise administration of prohibited substances'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said government is working towards a legislation that would criminalise trafficking and administration of prohibited performance-enhancing substances to athletes. "We are working on introducing criminal provisions for athlete support staff or other persons involved in trafficking and administering banned substances," Mandaviya said, making it apparent that coaches who are found encouraging use of banned substances by athletes would be among those at the receiving end. Currently, India does not have penal provisions to tackle supply of banned substances to athletes and disciplinary action is limited to bans that can last up to a lifetime depending on the degree of the offence. "Doping is no longer individual conduct. It is organised multi-national enterprise. The threat of doping undermines sport as India becomes a global sporting hub. Regulations are not enough. Ethics and values are at the core of sports but growing pressure of competition can lead to doping," Mandaviya stressed about the importance of curbing doping.

Ex-IOA chief Ramachandran no more

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Narayana Ramachandran died on Thursday in Chennai after a prolonged illness. He was 77. "He was not keeping well for the last few months and breathed his last today," Squash Rackets Federation of India Secretary General Cyrus Poncha said. "It's a big loss to the squash fraternity. I don't have words ... He was the president of the SRFI initially," said Poncha. Ramachandran served as IOA president from February 2014 to December 2017.

10-man East Bengal cut Bengaluru FC's lead thrice for a thrilling draw

KOLKATA, PTI

East Bengal FC produced a spirited display to come from behind three times and secure a dramatic 3-3 draw against Bengaluru FC in a pulsating Indian Super League match here on Thursday. Despite being reduced to 10 men in the first half, the Red and Gold Brigade showed remarkable resilience, with Anwar Ali, Saul Crespo and Anton Sobjerg finding the net to cancel out strikes from Ashique Kuruniyan, Suresh Singh Wangjam and Ryan Williams. The result sees both sides move to 15 points, with East Bengal placed third on goal difference from eight matches, while Bengaluru FC sit fourth having played a game more. Crespo was adjudged the Player of the Match for his influential performance in midfield. The contest began at a high



Anton Sobjerg

tempo, with East Bengal immediately on the front foot. Bipin Singh tested the Bengaluru defence inside the opening minutes, while the visitors responded with swift transitions, setting the tone for an open and attacking encounter. Bengaluru struck first in the 12th minute through a moment of brilliance from Ashique. Receiving a pass from Sirojiddin Kuziev on the left flank, the winger created space for himself before unleashing a stunning right-footed strike from distance that flew into the top corner. **Result:** East Bengal: 3 (Anwar 21st, Crespo 55th, Sobjerg 90+7th) drew with Bengaluru FC: 3 (Ashique 12th, Suresh 39th, Ryan Williams 71st).

Jay Shah in WEF's young leaders class

NEW DELHI, PTI: The chairman of the International Cricket Council, Jay Shah, has been named to the Young Global Leaders Class of 2026 by the World Economic Forum, which recognised his role in shaping the future of global cricket. Shah -- who previously served as the youngest secretary of the BCCI and played key roles in IPL operations, the growth of women's cricket, and major media rights deals -- has also been instrumental in cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Shah's selection underscores his growing influence in international cricket administration.

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HORSE RACING

BTC declared glanders free, races from May 1

Club plans to have 24 racing days during Summer season

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In what can be called music to the ears of the beleaguered Bangalore Turf Club, the State Government has declared the entire facility as glanders-free, with the much sought-after summer season scheduled to kick off on May 1. “The surveillance has been done according to the clause-4.4 and 4.6 of “National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India-(Revised 2025)” and samples were found negative,” said a notification from D Chandrakala, Under Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department. “In this regard, as per the clause-5 of “National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India-(Revised 2025)” the earlier notified area is hereby declared De-Notified and the restriction imposed on the movement of

equines, donkeys and mules in and out of the notified area is hereby withdrawn with immediate effect.” “This is exactly the news the club had been waiting for,” Uday K Easwaran former chairman and current managing committee member as well as steward, told *DH*. “We missed out on the entire winter season owing to glanders and we can’t wait to put on a show for the summer. We will be kicking off the season on May 1. “In order to give opportunities for Bengaluru-based horses which missed out on racing in the winter because of glanders, the first four races of the summer season – the opening two weekends basically – will be dedicated only to them. This will help them get up to speed because, as I said, they’ve not raced competitively.” BTC is planning to have a total of 24 racing days in the summer season with the biggest attraction being the Summer Derby where the club is



The summer season at the Bangalore Turf Club is set to kick off on May 1 with the Derby race expected to offer a whopping Rs 5 crore prize money. DH FILE PHOTO

looking at offering a total prize money of Rs 5 crore, making it the richest race in the Indian calendar. Outstation horses will be allowed to compete from May 15 but they must have two glanders-free certificates – each taken 21 days apart. Apart from 637 horses in Bengaluru, BTC expects around 150 outstation horses to take part in the summer season. “The club doesn’t want to take any chances. Horses will have to be tested for two successive cycles and each cycle is 21 days. This has been informed to all owners and trainers so that they are prepared,” said Easwaran. “Summer season in Bengaluru is the most anticipated

one. Since we didn’t have the winter, we have increased our stake money for the summer to Rs 20 cr – the highest ever recorded prize money. “Also the summer derby will offer Rs 5 cr prize money. Mr Zavaray S Poonawalla will contribute Rs 1.5 cr, BTC will contribute Rs 1 cr, we will raise about Rs 1 cr through sweepstakes and entry fees, and the remaining purse will bestrung together by BTC and Mr Zavaray,” added Easwaran. BTC was forced to cancel the winter season last December after two horses tested positive for the deadly glanders disease. What followed was a rigorous process of testing and quarantining to ensure racing was back for the summer.



Karnataka U-13 girls' team players pose with the trophy after winning the Asmita National Football League in Mahilpur, Punjab on Thursday.

K'taka girls triumphant

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka girls' team defeated hosts Punjab in a close encounter to lift their first U-13 Asmita National Football League title in Mahilpur on Saturday. Karnataka, who earlier claimed the South Zone U-13 Championships as well, won the final in the penalty shootout 5-4 after the match ended 1-1 in regulation time. Subhathra scored the deci-

sive penalty to seal the victory while Anvi Joshi, Madumetha K, Richa Bhatia, Takshvi Mahajan also ensured the side missed none of their penalty shots. Savri, Fiza and Ribkah and Tanveer Kaur converted their penalties for Punjab. Earlier, Subhathra gave Karnataka the lead from the spot at the 31st minute before Tanveer put the hosts on level terms at the 38th minute.

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